



City and Royal Burgh of Dunfermline

ANNUAL REPORT

ON THE

HEALTH AND WELFARE
OF DUNFERMLINE

FOR THE YEAR

1955



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HEALTH OF DUNFERMLINE

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BY

C. BARCLAY REEKIE,
M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.,

Medical Officer of Health

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Staff.

Health Department

- C. BARCLAY REEKIE, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H., Medical Officer of Health; Medical Superintendent, West Fife Infectious Diseases Hospital; Administrative Medical Officer, Carnegie Dunfermline Trust; and Medical Superintendent, Bandrum Children's Home.
- ROBERT M. WINK, B.Sc., M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H., Depute Medical Officer of Health; Medical Officer, West Fife Infectious Diseases Hospital.
- DAVID M. CATHIE, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H., Assistant Medical Officer of Health; Assistant Medical Officer, West Fife Infectious Diseases Hospital.
- F. MARGARET ADDLY, L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S., L.R.F.P. and S.G., D.P.H., Assistant Medical Officer of Health; Assistant Medical Officer, West Fife Infectious Diseases Hospital.

CONSULTANTS.

- ROBERT I. STIRLING, M.B., Ch.B., F.R.C.S.—Orthopædic Clinic.
- C. R. DUNCAN LEEDS, M.B., Ch.B., F.R.C.S., D.O.M.S.—Eye Clinic.

HEALTH VISITORS.

- | | |
|----------------------|--|
| Miss L. NISBET. | Miss S. M. BIRCHALL
(resigned 24/9/55). |
| Miss A. M. SOUTAR. | Miss E. McKEE
(appointed 10/1/55). |
| Miss C. JOHNSTON. | Miss S. YOUNG
(appointed 31/1/55). |
| Miss M. C. HOOD. | Miss B. B. KNOX
(appointed 16/5/55). |
| Miss L. ROBERTSON. | Miss E. STARK
(appointed 16/5/55). |
| Miss B. L. CRICHTON. | Miss H. MITCHELL
(appointed 20/9/55). |
| Miss A. S. MOIR. | |
| Miss H. ROBERTSON. | |
| Miss H. L. PATERSON. | |
| Miss L. STONELEY. | |

The above-named are trained nurses and with three exceptions hold the Health Visitor's Certificate.

HOME NURSING AND DOMICILIARY MIDWIFERY STAFF.

Dunfermline :

- | | |
|--|---|
| Miss M. E. DICKSON. | Miss D. BURT
(appointed 21/2/55). |
| Miss J. MacGREGOR. | Mrs D. BROWN
(appointed temporarily
15/8/55). |
| Miss D. DUNCAN. | Mrs S. SLATER,
S.C.M. Certificate only
(Part-time). |
| Miss J. DOUGLAS
(resigned 15/1/55). | |

Rosyth :

- | | |
|----------------------|---|
| Miss I. W. SINCLAIR. | Miss H. L. BRICKMAN
(resigned 15/10/55). |
|----------------------|---|

Part-time Domiciliary Midwives :

- | | |
|-------------------|-------------|
| Mrs L. BEVERIDGE. | Mrs E. COX. |
|-------------------|-------------|

The above-named have S.C.M. Certificate only.

DOMESTIC HELP SERVICE.

- Mrs I. FISHLEY, Supervisor.

DAY NURSERIES.

- Mrs J. THOMSON, R.G.N., Matron, Broomhead Nursery.
- Miss I. FISHER, R.G.N., S.C.M., Matron, Rosyth Nursery.

STAFF—HEALTH DEPARTMENT—(Continued).**CLERICAL STAFF.**

Miss J. G. ERSKINE,
Administrative Assistant.

Mrs S. PRENTICE.

Miss C. CARSTAIRS.

Miss F. ARMER.

Miss S. BEST.

Miss M. MUMBERSON
(resigned 7/4/55).

Miss A. MITCHELL
(resigned 27/7/55).

Miss F. AITKEN.

Miss I. KIMBER
(appointed 11/4/55).

Miss P. KING
(appointed 26/7/55).

Miss C. GIBBONS
(appointed 14/11/55).

MENTAL HEALTH SERVICE.

WILLIAM ADAMS, M.B., Ch.B., Certifying Officer.

ROBERT C. WALLACE, M.B., Ch.B., Certifying Officer.

BERTRAM FINNIE, Authorised Officer.

GEORGE K. PLUMMER, Authorised Officer.

CARNEGIE DUNFERMLINE TRUST STAFF ENGAGED IN THE SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICE.

Miss MADELINE G. LESLIE, L.D.S., R.C.S.—Dentist.

J. JAMIESON LEASK, L.D.S., R.C.S.—Dentist (appointed 1/2/55).

Miss AGNES B. WHITE, C.S.P.—Physiotherapist.

Miss N. WOOD—Speech Therapist.

Nurses:

Miss A. E. BENNETT, R.G.N.
(retired 15/9/55).

Miss E. B. STENHOUSE, R.G.N.
(retired 15/2/55).

Duties now undertaken by Health Visitors.

Secretary: Miss M. C. McLAREN.

Sanitary Department.

ALEXANDER H. DUNCAN, M.R.S.H., M.Inst. P.C., M.I.T.A., Chief Sanitary Inspector and Inspector of Cleansing.

GORDON S. WILSON, First Assistant Sanitary Inspector (resigned 15/10/55).

DONALD MACKAY, Second Assistant Sanitary Inspector (appointed First Assistant 17/10/55).

WILLIAM ELLIS, Third Assistant Sanitary Inspector.

KENNETH N. FRASER, Senior Apprentice Sanitary Inspector (appointed Fourth Assistant Sanitary Inspector 25/7/55).

PETER K. FRANKLIN, Senior Apprentice (on National Service).

JOHN DOUGLAS HENDRY, Senior Apprentice.

JOHN HUNTER, Junior Apprentice (appointed 17/10/55).

Miss MARGARET W. CHALMERS, Senior Shorthand/Typist-Clerkess.

Mrs JEAN C. HOTCHKIES, Clerkess (appointed 28/3/55).

Miss MARTHA D. MILLAR, Junior Shorthand-Typist Clerkess.

Miss MORAG HARLEY, Clerkess (appointed 5/4/55).

Social Services Department.

G. K. PLUMMER, Social Services Officer.

BERTRAM FINNIE, Assistant Social Services Officer.

Miss CHRISTIAN REDDIE, Welfare Assistant.

FRANCIS J. TAIT, Assistant Social Services Officer.

Miss AGNES OLIPHANT, Shorthand Typist/Clerkess.

Miss RACHEL HONEYMAN, Junior Shorthand Typist/Clerkess (resigned 15/1/55).

Miss MARION THOMSON, Junior Shorthand Typist/Clerkess (appointed 21/2/55).

RESIDENTIAL HOMES.

Miss ELIZABETH BEATTIE, Matron, Davaar.

Miss JEAN SHARP, Matron, Garvock House.

WILLIAM T. MEAD and Mrs RUBY E. MEAD, Superintendent and Matron, Lusscar.

STANLEY MOIR and Mrs MABEL MOIR, Superintendent and Matron, Garthdec.

*To the Provost, Magistrates, and Councillors of the
City and Royal Burgh of Dunfermline, and to
the Department of Health for Scotland.*

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you the Annual Report
on the Health and Welfare of Dunfermline.

To all who so loyally co-operated with me in the work, I avail
myself of this opportunity of making grateful acknowledgment.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

C. BARCLAY REEKIE.

Medical Officer of Health.

Carnegie Clinic,
Dunfermline, July 1956.

Summary of Vital Statistics.

The following is a summary of the principal statistics for the years 1950, 1951, 1952, 1953, 1954, and 1955:—

	1950.	1951.	1952.	1953.	1954.	1955.
Population	47,725	45,041	45,215	45,314	45,052	45,193
Number of Deaths (corrected)	510	492	469	495	466	496
Death-rate per 1000 population (corrected and adjusted for age and sex distribution)	10.9	11.1	10.6	11.8	11.1	11.9
Deaths of infants under 1 year	22	25	17	28	16	22
Infantile mortality rate per 1000 live births	30	34	24	41	21	29
Deaths of infants under 4 weeks	10	17	13	12	14	16
Neo-natal mortality rate per 1000 live births	14	23	18	18	19	21
Number of deaths from pulmonary tuberculosis	12	11	7	7	4	6
Number of deaths from tuberculosis (all forms)	15	11	8	9	5	7
Death-rate per 1000 population from pulmonary tuberculosis	0.25	0.24	0.15	0.15	0.09	0.13
Death-rate per 1000 population from all forms of tuberculosis	0.31	0.24	0.18	0.20	0.11	0.15
Death-rate per 1000 population from the principal epidemic diseases..	0.04	0.09	0.04	0.09	0.04	0.02
Marriage-rate per 1000 population	8.3	9.9	9.3	8.3	9.4	10.2
Number of live births registered (corrected)	738	746	716	680	746	768
Number of still-births registered (corrected)	21	24	23	17	20	21
Live birth-rate per 1000 population,	15.5	16.6	15.8	15.0	16.6	17.0
Illegitimate births per 100 live births,	4.9	4.8	3.6	5.7	3.8	3.6
Maternal mortality rate (maternal deaths per 1000 live and still-births)	3.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.3	0.0

The Year: A Brief Commentary.

The year furnishes me once again with the opportunity and privilege—for privilege I count it to be—of reporting on the Health and Welfare of Dunfermline. The health of the community so far as can be generally assessed by statistics was satisfactory.

The spectacular results of 1954 were not maintained, but in retrospect it would appear that these were to some extent statistically unexpected. The figures now presented conform more to the general pattern of the post-war downward trend.

Outstanding was the fact that we returned to a year of no maternal mortality during a period when the birth rate was at its highest for some considerable time.

The death rate from the principal epidemic diseases of 0.02 per 1000 was the lowest ever recorded in Dunfermline.

Statistically therefore, the year was not without event.

With regard to infectious diseases, the main features may be summarised as follows:—

	No. of Cases.		Increase.	Decrease.
	1955.	1954.		
Cerebro-spinal fever	3	2	1	—
Dysentery	19	5	14	—
Erysipelas	9	7	2	—
Measles	634	30	604	—
Ophthalmia neonatorum	—	2	—	2
Paratyphoid B. fever	4	5	—	1
Pneumonia, broncho-	47	26	21	—
Pneumonia, influenzal	2	1	1	—
Pneumonia, lobar	53	78	—	25
Polomyelitis	2	3	—	1
Puerperal fever	1	1	—	—
Scarlet fever	36	92	—	56
Tuberculosis, pulmonary	25	51	—	26
Tuberculosis, non-pulmonary	4	5	—	1
Whooping cough	5	70	—	65

It will be noted that apart from the prevalence of measles, the incidence of infectious diseases was exceptionally low.

It is heartening to be able to report considerable progress with regard to tuberculosis. The number of new cases discovered was half that of the previous year, and the mortality rate was at the incredibly low figure of 0.15 per 1000 for all forms of the disease. More cases

of early treatable disease are being discovered. There is now no waiting list for sanatorium treatment, so that rapid admission and improved methods of treatment have brought great hope to the sufferer and satisfaction to those concerned with control of the disease; indeed, this century with all its anxieties and stresses can really be proud of the growing victory over tuberculosis. The scheme of B.C.G. Vaccination for protection of children approaching school leaving age against the disease made good progress and 1,491 in this category were dealt with.

Diphtheria has disappeared from Dunfermline. The state of immunity continues at a high level and for the eighth year in succession the disease has not occurred. No death has been recorded from diphtheria for eleven years.

Although the number of health visitors is not yet anything like adequate, considerable development took place during the year in respect of the visitation of old people.

The health care of the elderly is a field which in the future may well equal that of child welfare to-day. In this sphere the problem is no longer the saving of life, but the prevention of disrepair, so that the prolongation of years is accompanied by life in its fuller sense.

The Domestic Help Service now firmly established has had to meet progressively increasing demands, particularly from the infirm and aged, many of whom without assistance for themselves and their homes would have required institutional care.

The future holds many tasks. An expanding town such as Dunfermline brings fresh problems, but it may be said of 1955 that it was a satisfactory year during which the people used in full measure the health and welfare service of the local authority with every indication of appreciation and benefit.

ANNUAL REPORT.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Population.—The population as estimated by the Registrar General to 30th June 1955 was 45,193, being an increase of 141 from the figure for 1954.

Births.—The live births registered after correction for transfers were 768, equivalent to a birth-rate of 17.0 per thousand of population as compared with 16.6 in the preceding year. The rate for Scotland was 18.0 per thousand population.

It is of interest to compare the figures with those of previous years:—

1926-1930	Average Birth-rate	16.9
1931-1935	Do.	16.3
1936-1940	Do.	15.8
1941-1945	Do.	18.2
1946-1950	Do.	18.3
1951	Birth-rate	16.6
1952	Do.	15.8
1953	Do.	15.0
1954	Do.	16.6
1955	Do.	17.0

The number of still-births registered after correction for transfers during the year was 21, giving a rate of 27 per thousand total births. The number of still-births registered for a number of years past, with the corresponding rates per thousand total births, are as follows:—

		Still-births.	Rate per thousand total births.
1941-1945	Average	26	31
1946-1950	Do.	25	29
1951	.. .. .	24	31
1952	.. .. .	23	31
1953	.. .. .	17	24
1954	.. .. .	20	26
1955	.. .. .	21	27

Deaths.—The deaths registered after correction for transfers were 496, which is equivalent to a death-rate (adjusted for age and sex distribution) of 11.9. This compares with 12.0 for Scotland and 11.5

for the large burghs. The following are the figures for preceding years:—

1926-1930	Average Death-rate	12.2
1931-1935	Do.	12.3
1936-1940	Do.	12.6
1941-1945	Do.	11.8
1946-1950	Do.	11.4
1951	Death-rate	11.1
1952	Do.	10.6
1953	Do.	11.8
1954	Do.	11.1
1955	Do.	11.9

Deaths from Infectious Diseases.—There were 2 deaths from the ordinary infectious diseases, viz.:—Acute poliomyelitis, 2.

Deaths from Cancer.—The deaths from cancer were 78, which is equivalent to a death-rate of 1.72 as compared with 1.84 for the previous year.

The following are the death-rates from cancer for a number of years:—

1931-1935	Average	1.48
1936-1940	Do.	1.38
1941-1945	Do.	1.49
1946-1950	Do.	1.65
1951	Rate	1.26
1952	Do.	1.72
1953	Do.	1.63
1954	Do.	1.84
1955	Do.	1.72

CARE OF MOTHERS AND YOUNG CHILDREN.

Maternal Mortality.—There were no deaths.

Infantile Mortality.—During 1955 there were 22 deaths among children under 1 year of age as compared with 16 in 1954. The infant mortality rate for the year was 29 per 1000 live births, which compares with the rate of 30 for Scotland as a whole and 33 for the large burghs during the same period.

The following are the figures for previous years so far as they are available:—

1916-1920	Average infantile mortality rate	85
1921-1925	Do. do.	79
1926-1930	Do. do.	67
1931-1935	Do. do.	58
1936-1940	Do. do.	59
1941-1945	Do. do.	57
1946-1950	Do. do.	42
1951	Infantile mortality rate	34
1952	Do.	24
1953	Do.	41
1954	Do.	21
1955	Do.	29

A detailed study of the deaths in this period of life reveals the following facts:—Of the total deaths 16 (72.7 per cent.) occurred in the neo-natal period, that is during the first four weeks of life, and were due to prematurity 7, pulmonary hyaline membrane 3, neo-natal asphyxia 1, foetal exsanguination and cerebral anoxia 1, intra-pulmonary haemorrhage 1, congenital absence of left lung 1, sub-dural haemorrhage 1, and sub-dural haematoma 1. The remaining 6 deaths were of infants over four weeks of age and were due to pyloric stenosis 2, enteritis 1, bronchitis 1, asphyxia (accidental) 1, fibrocystic disease and pneumonia 1.

Expectant Mothers.—Since the Ministry of Food ceased to function, the arrangement whereby the local area office forwarded a weekly list of expectant mothers who claimed entitlement to the extra food ration came to an end. It is not now possible to maintain a register, the scheme therefore is not so comprehensive. Health visitors discover expectant mothers in the course of visits to the homes for other purposes. They satisfy themselves that adequate arrangements have been made for care and supervision and give advice and training in mothercraft.

Seventy-seven per cent. of the women arranged to be confined in the Maternity Hospital, where the Consultant Obstetrician supervised their ante-natal and post-natal care. General practitioners also referred cases to the Obstetrician for consultation.

Ante-natal and Post-natal Clinics.—The ante-natal department of the Maternity Hospital held seven clinic sessions a week throughout the year. At the ante-natal clinic 556 women made 6,869 attendances, showing a decrease of 42 from the previous year in the number of women attending and an increase of 63 in the total number of attendances. At the post-natal clinic 585 women made 1,305 attendances, showing an increase of 34 and 12 respectively. Blood was taken from all new patients for the Wasserman reaction and Rhesus factor determination.

District Nurses Ante-natal Clinic.—A room in the Carnegie Clinic and a room in the Rosyth Nurses' Home are reserved for the use of the district nurses, where they hold ante-natal sessions for women who are to be confined at home. During the year 123 women made 378 attendances, showing an increase of 32 and 138 respectively.

Maternity packs are issued from the Health Department on demand for domiciliary confinement. One hundred and ninety-one packs were issued during the year.

Nineteen maternity outfits were supplied on loan to suitable cases on application by midwives only. The outfits consist of bed linen and towels, and are for use for a period of three weeks from the date of confinement.

Child Welfare Clinics.—There are seven child welfare clinics. It is hoped that the Blacklaw Child Welfare Clinic, which is at present housed in temporary premises, will move to the new Clinic under construction in this area, at the beginning of next year.

The following table shows the attendances during the year at each of the clinics:—

	AGE GROUP	Balridgeburn	Inglis Street	Kingseat	Nethertown	Rosyth	Townhill	Blacklaw	Totals	
Number of children who attended and who on the date of their first attendance were :—	Under 1 year	174	198	19	165	323	100	169	1,148	2,317
	Over 1 year	122	185	27	168	335	132	200	1,169	
Total number of attendances by children	Under 1 year	1,584	1,870	130	1,878	3,051	853	1,327	10,693	15,579
	Over 1 year	567	657	136	954	1,420	479	673	4,886	

The total number of children attending and the total number of attendances made show an increase of 53 and 838 respectively over the figures for the previous year.

The child welfare clinics are an integral part of the community life and are open to all mothers for advice on the welfare and management of their children. The emphasis is on the maintenance of health and every endeavour is made to give a knowledge of correct feeding and child management.

It is estimated that 71 per cent. of the children born and resident within Dunfermline attended clinics during their first year of life, and further that 54 per cent. of all children under 5 years of age attended clinics during that age period.

Advice was given regarding the following conditions:—

Anaemia	9	Injuries	20
Circulatory system defects	4	Mastitis	3
Congenital abnormalities	25	Mental deficiency	3
Dental caries	16	Neurological defects	8
Dermatological conditions	230	Nutritional defects	146
Ear, nose, and throat defects	208	Ophthalmic defects	80
Gastro-intestinal conditions	72	Orthopaedic defects	109
Icterus neonatorum	1	Parasitic intestinal conditions	17
Infectious diseases	5	Pink disease	1

Reaction to vaccination and inoculation	11	Teething difficulties	77
Respiratory infections	112	Thrush	19
Speech defects	8	Unhealed umbilicus	30
Surgical conditions	20	Urinary system defects	55
		Umbilical hernia	16

During the year there was a total of 620 prescriptions issued at the clinics.

Food and Milk.—A variety of foods were made available in the clinics at concession rates.

The following table shows the quantity of foods supplied to expectant and nursing mothers and children under 5 years of age during the year:—

Food.	Total quantities supplied.
Cow & Gate	7,117 lbs.
Virol	512½ lbs.
Maltoline	96½ lbs.
Farx	333 lbs.
Twin Pack (Cereal)	245½ lbs.
Groats	65 lbs.
Lactagol	46 packets.
Colact	46 lbs.
Nestrovite	193 bottles.
Rosehip Syrup	1,017 bottles.
Nestle's Food	265 tins.

The total cost of baby foods purchased during the year was £1,251, 8s., all of which was recovered.

Welfare Foods.—The arrangements made for the distribution of welfare foods continue to work smoothly.

The main issuing centre is located at the Health Department, Carnegie Clinic, Pilmuir Street. Foods are on issue Mondays to Fridays from 9 a.m. to 4.30 p.m., and on Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 11.30 a.m.

Subsidiary distribution takes place at each of the child welfare clinics during the times the clinics are normally working.

Bulk stores are kept at the Health Department and smaller supplies are held at the respective child welfare clinics. During the year the following welfare foods were distributed:—

National dried milk	25,335 tins.
Cod liver oil	8,285 bottles.
A and D vitamin tablets	2,500 packets.
Orange juice	37,731 bottles.

The volume of the work was greater than was anticipated and it was necessary to appoint an additional member of staff to the

permanent establishment. The aid of the Women's Voluntary Services continued to be enlisted to assist in the distribution of food at child welfare clinics, and we are indebted to various members of this organisation for their assistance.

In comparison with the uptake of welfare foods during the six months of 1954 when the Town Council were responsible for the distribution, it would appear that there was a reduction in uptake of approximately 7000 tins of National dried milk.

The explanation seems to be that other infant foods are recommended from institutional quarters.

The uptake of cod liver oil showed a slight increase over the period as did the uptake of A and D vitamin tablets. For orange juice there was a considerable increase of demand amounting to approximately 5000 bottles.

Voluntary Workers.—The work of the health visitors in connection with child welfare clinics is materially lightened by the assistance they receive from a number of ladies who regularly give their services as voluntary workers. Their help, particularly with regard to clerical work, is of great assistance, and it is again a pleasure to express deep gratitude for their loyal and valuable service to the community.

During the year assistance was received from:—

Mrs ANDERSON	}	At Rosyth Clinic.
Mrs ARMSTRONG		
Mrs RENNIE		
Mrs BALFOUR		
Miss LEADBETTER	}	At Inglis Street Clinic.
Mrs HARGREAVES		
Mrs MORTON	}	At Nethertown Clinic.
Miss ROBERTSON		
Miss B. ROBERTSON		
Mrs RUTHERFORD	}	At Baldrigeburn Clinic.
Miss LEADBETTER		
Mrs HAMILTON	}	At Blacklaw Clinic.
Mrs DRUMMOND		

Day Nurseries.—There are two nurseries situated at Broomhead and Rosyth, providing full daytime care for children up to five years of age for five and a half days per week. They are primarily for children whose mothers are in employment, ill, or being confined. The children are medically inspected at monthly intervals.

The charge is from two to five shillings per day according to circumstances.

Broomhead provides accommodation for 62 children and Rosyth for 40 children.

Both nurseries are approved training schools for the Nursery Nurses Certificate and work in conjunction with the McCrone Pre-Nursing School. In the course of the year 3 students obtained the certificate.

BROOMHEAD.

Attendances:

Children under 2 years—

Total number of attendances 2,931

Children over 2 years—

Total number of attendances 9,407

Receipts, £2,143, 5s. 6d.

ROSYTH.

Attendances:

Children under 2 years—

Total number of attendances 1,608

Children over 2 years—

Total number of attendances 4,790

Receipts, £949, 1s. 0d.

The attendances at the two nurseries show an increase of 307 over the number for the previous year, and the payment receipts an increase of £533, 15s.

Treatment Clinics.—The various school clinics also cater for pre-school children, and the number treated during the year is shown in the following tables:—

General Clinic.

	Number of Cases.	Number of Attendances.
Ear, nose and throat	113	126
Eye	7	10
Skin	50	162
Other conditions	151	192
Ultra-violet light	26	411
Orthopaedic	169	673
Defective speech	16	336
Totals	532	1,910

Dental Clinic.

Number of cases 268

Number of attendances 339

Specialist Clinics.—The specialist clinics attached to the school health service are available to children under school age.

Mr. Robert I. Stirling, F.R.C.S., is the Consulting Orthopaedic Specialist, and during the year he examined 65 children. Forty-nine children were seen by various Consultants to the ear, nose and throat

clinic during the year. Mr. C. R. Duncan Leeds, F.R.C.S., D.O.M.S., is the Consultant in charge of the eye clinic. Twelve children were examined, 20 re-examined, and 9 children had glasses fitted in the course of the year. The Specialists are available at the following intervals:—Orthopaedic, monthly; ear, nose and throat, monthly; eye, weekly.

The services of Dr. R. A. Miller, Paediatrician, in a consultative capacity were available at the Northern Hospital, Dunfermline, during the year. Copies of his reports on the examination of all Dunfermline children are forwarded to the Medical Officer of Health.

Routine Examination of Children (1-5 years of age).—The routine medical examination of children (1-5 years of age) continued throughout the year. The system adopted is similar to that pertaining to school medical inspection. Special sessions are held at the various child welfare clinics, the parents are notified, and the children examined by appointment. The scheme meets with a good response.

During the year 81 sessions were held and 1,190 children were examined. A total of 422 children were discovered to be suffering from some form of defect and appropriate treatment was initiated. Of that number 91 were referred to Specialists. The main defective conditions were pertaining to ear, nose and throat 145, and the skeletal system 94. Once more a remarkable feature was the absence of nutritional defects which numbered only 3.

This scheme has been in existence for three and a half years and is a valuable preventive measure in the detection of early signs of disease before the onset of structural changes and is now showing a definite effect on the health of the school entrant group, with a diminution of the numbers found to be suffering from remediable defects. The medical officers undertaking the examinations are also the school medical officers and are virtually child health officers responsible for the health both of the pre-school and school child.

Care of Premature Infants.—To ensure the care of premature infants an arrangement has been made to admit women in premature labour as emergencies to the Maternity Hospital whenever possible. If the mother and infant have to remain at home, special equipment for the care of the infant is issued on loan from the Health Department and supervision maintained by the appropriate authority's nursing services.

Dental Care.—There are now two School Dental Officers and they treated 268 pre-school children who made 339 attendances.

Priority was given to the needs of the school population as there was much leeway to be made up owing to so long a period with only one Dental Officer.

Mothers and young children are referred to dental practitioners of their own choice.

Prevention of Break-up of Families.—Prior to the issue of Circular 77/1954 from the Department of Health for Scotland, we had been undertaking, in a nebulous way, some of the recommendations contained in the Circular, for it had already been accepted that the health visitor's work "now extends to cover the whole field of prevention of ill-health, including prevention of mental ill-health." We are fortunate in Dunfermline with the Carnegie Clinic housing Health, Welfare, and Children's Services under the same administrative wing. The health visitors enlist the aid of the Social Services Officer and Children's Officer and *vice versa*; indeed there are frequent contacts concerning various aspects of the work. Domestic helps have been utilised and several families have been assisted with good results.

To further implement this work the Town Council decided during the year to increase the establishment of health visitors by two rather than to appoint a social worker. The health visitor is in an important strategic position. She visits the homes at her discretion without waiting to be summoned. She has unobtrusive access to the home and can readily assess the situation.

There are approximately 50 families in Dunfermline who might be termed "families in trouble." With the family welfare services located under the same roof, informal meetings of all concerned are easy to arrange, particularly when it may be necessary to consider joint action.

The crux of the situation is sufficiency of health visitors, so that each in her district has adequate time available for "problem" and "border line" families.

As indicated elsewhere in this report, shortage of health visitors and diminishing numbers of suitable recruits are hampering all forms of preventive work.

Children's Homes.—There are no residential nurseries provided by the Town Council under Section 22 of the National Health Service (Scotland) Act, 1947.

Under the provisions of the Children Act, a mansion house in the vicinity of Dunfermline named the Martha Frew Children's Home provides approximately 34 places for deprived children.

The medical supervision of the Home is undertaken by the Medical Officer of Health. The Health Department medical staff examine the children prior to admission and attend to their medical needs while resident.

Bandrum Children's Convalescent Home.—By arrangement between Dunfermline Town Council and the South-Eastern Regional Hospital Board, the Medical Officer of Health acts as Medical Superintendent of this institution.

Children requiring a period of convalescence are admitted from the various hospitals serving the West Fife area, from the child welfare and school clinics or by recommendation from their own family doctor. They are all debilitated and ailing from various causes, their chief need being ample rest and quiet, regular hours of sleep, good food and fresh air.

At the beginning of the year 22 children were in residence and 224 were admitted during the year, making a total of 246 children (151 boys and 95 girls). The average duration of stay was 35 days. The average gain in weight was 3 lbs. 6 ozs.

Children Acts, 1937-1948.—The number of children registered under the Child Life Protection provisions of the above mentioned Acts on 1st January 1955 was 4. Two were added to the register and one was removed from the register during the year. The number on the roll at the end of the year was 5.

The Health Visitors are Child Life Protection Visitors and made 68 visits to these children and to 15 children placed with a view to adoption.

MIDWIFERY.

Two hundred and four applications for maternity services were received during the year, which compares with 180 for the previous year. One hundred and seventy-one confinements were conducted as compared with 179 during 1954. In addition 13 cases who received ante-natal care from the domiciliary midwives were later removed to hospital for confinement. Four emergency cases were confined at home and later removed to the Maternity Hospital.

The staff engaged in the service consisted of 2 full-time midwives and the part-time employment of 2 midwives in private practice.

Applicants for this service approach the midwife of their choice, who in turn notifies the Medical Officer of Health as soon as a case is accepted. Record forms are then issued to the midwife, who returns them on completion of the confinement.

The registers, temperature charts, and appliances of all midwives practising within the burgh were inspected and the midwives interviewed by the Obstetrician. Private practising midwives were also supervised by the health visitors.

The district nursing sisters of Dunfermline district conduct ante-natal sessions in a room reserved for the purpose in the Carnegie Clinic; similarly in Rosyth ante-natal sessions are held in the Nurses' Home.

Where housing and social conditions are unsuitable for confinement in the home, women are admitted to the Maternity Hospital. With the improvement in housing conditions, only in one instance was this necessary during the year.

District training for pupil midwives in the Dunfermline Maternity Hospital is undertaken by the senior district nursing sisters, who have been approved as teachers by the Central Midwives' Board. This arrangement makes it possible for the Maternity Hospital to train midwives for Part II. of the S.C.M. Certificate and is a valuable contribution towards co-ordinating the work of the Local Authority with that of the Hospital Board. During the year 13 students were trained.

All but one of the domiciliary midwives are qualified to administer gas and air analgesia. One set of gas and air apparatus was in use during the year and gas and air analgesia was administered by midwives in 47 cases, while pethidine was administered in 108 cases. The comparable figures for 1954 were 48 and 78 respectively.

The domiciliary midwives were in the process of training in the use of Trilene apparatus at the end of the year and two sets of apparatus were on order.

Two houses are provided by the Town Council for the accommodation of the Dunfermline and Rosyth district nurses respectively.

A motor car is provided for the senior nursing sister of the Dunfermline district; apart from this, transport is obtained by the public services. Taxis are engaged when necessary.

The following table gives details of the work done during the year:—

Total No. of Births, including still-births, notified during the year that is before correction for mother's residence	1,610
(i) Cases dealt with under Section 23 (2) of the National Health Service (Scotland) Act, 1947—	
(a) Doctor engaged and present at confinement ..	111
(b) Doctor engaged and not present at confinement,	60
(c) Midwife alone (no doctor engaged)	—
(ii) Other domiciliary cases—	
(a) Doctor engaged	—
(b) Midwife alone (no doctor engaged)	—
(c) Without doctor or midwife	—
(d) All other cases	4
(iii) Cases conducted at Maternity Hospital	1,435

HEALTH VISITING.

The health visitors are all-purpose visitors and their duties are as detailed in previous reports.

Two additional members of staff were appointed during the year to permit of more time being devoted to problem families. To some extent this has been nullified by long periods elapsing between resignations of existing staff and filling vacancies; nevertheless by redistribution of the work, the service has been adapted as far as possible to existing conditions and, in addition to continuation and extension of the original functions in relation to the care of mothers and young children, many additional tasks are undertaken. Redistribution of work can only go so far, and, as each new priority comes along, it simply results in too many duties being undertaken by too few.

Before 1948 the health visitor was concerned with the physical health of the expectant and nursing mother and the pre-school child, the prevention of infections, and the health of the school child. In the last seven years her duties have been widely extended to embrace the whole field of prevention of ill-health, including prevention of mental ill-health. Her concern no longer ceases when a child leaves school, the adolescent and adult come into her province, and with the ageing population the preservation of the health of the elderly, a matter of paramount importance in their own interests and in those of the community.

The town is subdivided into districts equivalent to the number of health visitors; in each district the health visitor attends the appropriate clinics and schools. This saves duplication of visits to the

same home and enables the health visitor to obtain a complete knowledge of each family as a unit.

Visits to old people were considerably extended during the year and totalled 673. The Social Services Officer has compiled a list of old people and at the end of the year it contained 607 names. Priority in visiting was given to those living alone and to those who were "house bound." Visitation of the elderly is time consuming as so many factors have to be considered. The health visitor is the link through whom the services, both statutory and voluntary, which function on behalf of the elderly can be set in motion. Examples of these are financial aid, medical attention, chiropody, meals on wheels, etc.

There are now about 4,000 people of pensionable age in Dunfermline, and the problem is first to discover the people who require help and second to spread general information of the help that is available.

Individual health education of persons and families comprises a large part of the health visitor's work, and reliance is placed on this rather than on group health education.

A close liaison is maintained between the Maternity Hospital, the Infectious Diseases Hospital, and the Tuberculosis Hospitals. A discharge list of mothers and infants is obtained daily by telephone from the Maternity Hospital and they are visited forthwith. Similarly patients discharged from the Infectious Diseases Hospital and Sanatoria are visited.

It has not been possible to link up the health visiting service with the General Hospitals (surgical and medical) other than to issue a request to them to notify the Welfare Department of persons over 65 years of age who on discharge appear to be in need of welfare services. It is felt that much greater use might be made by the Hospitals of these services.

The health visitors are available to work in co-operation with general medical practitioners, some of whom ask for assistance in special cases.

The following table is a record of the visits made by health visitors during the year, and shows an increase of 1,318 visits over the number for the previous year:—

	No. Visited.	Total Visits.
Expectant mothers	307	591
Children under 1 year of age	1,611	12,055
Children between the age of 1 and 5	2,673	13,814
Tuberculosis cases	353	3,302
Other cases	116	165
Elderly people	—	673
Totals	5,060	30,600

HOME NURSING.

The combined duties of home nursing and midwifery are undertaken by a staff of six whole-time nurses and one part-time. The whole-time nurses are affiliated to the Queen's Institute of District Nursing and reside in the two houses provided by the Town Council in Dunfermline and Rosyth respectively.

The nursing of patients in their own homes is undertaken on the request and under the direction of medical practitioners, and emergency cases undertaken are subject to their subsequent approval.

Liaison with hospitals is maintained through the general medical practitioner.

The nurses themselves do not maintain a night service for home nursing, but the former Dunfermline Nursing Association Committee provide a night "sitter in" service.

There are no arrangements for the training of pupil nurses in district work.

The home nurses attended and made 17,513 visits to patients in their own homes during the year. The following table gives details of the work:—

	Patients.					Visits.					
	Medical	Surgical.	Midwifery.	Others.	Total.	Medical.	Surgical.	Midwifery.	Ante-natal.	Others.	Total.
Dunfermline	358	36	111	10	515	11,398	787	1,846	204	184	14,419
Rosyth... ..	109	28	61	...	198	1,515	319	1,068	192	...	3,094
Totals ...	467	64	172	10	713	12,913	1,106	2,914	396	184	17,513

Three hundred and sixteen patients were of the age-group sixty-five years and over, and 10,303 visits were made to them. This shows an increase over the previous year of 87 patients and 472 visits. There is an ever increasing number of old people living independent lives who find themselves in difficulty when illness occurs. This work involves mainly a heavier type of nursing which takes additional time and will necessitate an increase of staff in the near future to implement the agreed policy that old people should live in their own homes as far as possible, a proposition only made practical by the efficiency of the domiciliary medical and nursing care and welfare services.

An increasing amount of injection therapy is being carried out by the nurses. A total of 4,270 injections were given, of which insulin accounted for 4,053.

There appears to be no need for special provision for the domiciliary nursing of sick children. Where children require home nursing, each nurse in her own district is responsible for this.

Medical Loan Depot.—The local branch of the British Red Cross Society maintain within the Health Department a store of selected surgical and medical appliances which are available to the nurses when required.

DOMESTIC HELP.

The scheme for the provision of domestic help for households continues to expand. Ninety-one cases were carried forward from the previous year and 187 new applications were received. Two hundred

and thirty-nine householders were given assistance on account of the following conditions:—Elderly and infirm 130, chronic sick 28, general illness 48, maternity cases 28, and tuberculosis 5.

At the end of the year 104 householders were in receipt of the service, and 1 whole-time supervisor and 46 part-time domestic helps were employed.

During the year the charge was raised from 2/- to 2/6 per hour, but this is subject to a reduction in cases where financial circumstances warrant it.

Of the 239 persons who received assistance 146 paid full rate, 1 paid as assessed in the scale of charges, and of the 92 who paid the minimum charge, 70 received additional allowances from the National Assistance Board to enable them to pay this charge.

When an application is received for a domestic help, the Supervisor visits the home immediately, so that a suitable help is detailed for the household in which she is to serve. This is a most important feature and much of the success of the service is due to it as it ensures confidence on both sides from the beginning. It is appreciated that each of the categories of illness requires an individual psychological approach.

The elderly and infirm and chronic sick provide the heaviest demand on the service, a demand which is increasing annually and not likely to diminish as the years go on.

There is no doubt about the great value of this service, which enables people to remain in their own homes, alleviates much human suffering, and in a general way makes a material contribution to the health and welfare of the citizens.

A night “sitter in” service is provided on occasion by the former Dunfermline Nursing Association Committee.

The following is a table showing the number of cases attended and the Domestic Helps employed since the inauguration of the service:—

	1951.	1952.	1953.	1954.	1955.
Cases	55	121	168	212	239
Domestic Helps Part-time ..	13	25	35	42	46

VACCINATION AND IMMUNISATION.

Vaccination against Smallpox.—Details of vaccination notified during the year are as follows:—

	Primary Vaccinations.	Re-vaccinations.
Typical vaccinia greatest at 7th to 10th day ..	579	35
Accelerated (vaccinoid) reaction (5th to 7th day)	1	19
Reaction greatest at 2nd to 3rd day	—	37
No local reaction	26	8
Totals	606	99

Of the 606 persons who received primary vaccinations, 397 were children born in 1955 and 181 were children born in 1954. General practitioners notified 210 primary vaccinations and 84 re-vaccinations.

Three hundred and ninety-six primary vaccinations were carried out at the local authority clinics. Compulsion has given way to persuasion, and it is now the task of the family doctor and the Health Department to impress upon parents the necessity to have their children vaccinated against smallpox.

An arrangement continues with the Registrar of Births whereby a special propaganda leaflet prepared by the Medical Officer of Health is given to the parent at the time of registration of a birth. Propaganda is carried out at all the clinics by the medical staff and health visitors, and by the latter in the course of their routine visits to the homes.

Immunisation against Diphtheria.—The state of immunity against the disease continues at a high level. It is estimated that at the end of the year 81 per cent. of all children received protective inoculations. This is a conservative estimate as it is known that some records from general practitioners had not been received. For the eighth year in succession there was no case of diphtheria in Dunfermline.

Immunisation is advised by the health visitors in the course of their routine visits to infants, and the option is given for this to be carried out by the family doctor or at a child welfare clinic; where the mother is unable for any reason to take her child for immunisation or where the parents are indifferent, visits to the homes by the Health Department Medical Staff are arranged and immunisation carried out. Reinforcing inoculations were given to

school entrants and again at the age of 10 and 15 years. During the year 750 children were given a full primary course of immunisation against diphtheria and 1,904 children received reinforcing inoculations. One hundred and sixty-three inoculations were given by general practitioners, 2,491 inoculations were given by the Health Department Medical Staff.

Immunisation against Whooping Cough.—Immunisation against whooping cough appears to require little or no propaganda. Parents know the disease and are anxious to adopt any procedure to avoid its hazards.

This year 637 infants were given a full course of protection.

PREVENTION, CARE, AND AFTER-CARE.

(a) TUBERCULOSIS.

At all times a close liaison is maintained with the Chest Physician to the West Fife Area, who has his consulting and treatment centre in the Carnegie Clinic.

On receipt of notification, either the initial notification or a "transfer-in" notice, cases are visited by the health visitors. At this visit a full environmental report is taken and details noted concerning all contacts. Advice is given regarding nursing care, fresh air, rest, and adequate nutrition.

Details of all notifications and the environmental reports are forwarded to the Chest Physician who informs the Medical Officer of Health of his clinical assessment of each case, and arranges for the investigation of all contacts.

The Chest Physician also supplies special reports concerning pre-school and school children, sputa results, and details of all admissions and discharges from hospital.

Domiciliary Visits.—These are made by the health visitors, as and when required according to the needs of each case. At these visits inquiry is made into the patient's health and welfare, bed bathing is carried out in those cases strictly confined to bed, and where recommended by the Chest Physician, streptomycin injections are given.

During the year 353 persons were visited by the health visitors, and the total number of visits made was 3,302.

At these visits opportunity is taken of explaining the scheme of assistance grants payable by the National Assistance Board.

Medical comforts are supplied when considered necessary, and in cases of financial hardship free milk to the extent of 2 pints per day and virol free of charge are issued.

During the year the following number of patients received free milk:—

In receipt of benefit on 1/1/55.	Granted benefit during the year.	Ceased benefit during the year.	In receipt of benefit on 31/12/55.
40	37	34	43

Four hundred and fifty-four 8 oz. cartons of virol were issued during the year.

Bed and bedding and toilet requisites are available on loan to necessitous cases from the Health Department and the Red Cross Depot at the Carnegie Clinic.

Occupational therapy is also encouraged in domiciliary cases and, if desired, representatives of the Red Cross visit the patient's home and supply material for rug making, embroidery, leatherwork, sewing, etc.

A special library scheme is provided for tuberculous patients. The health visitor obtains the names of those desirous of using this service and these are forwarded to the Librarian of the Carnegie Public Library, who arranges for the books to be taken to the homes. During the year only 2 new applications were made for this service.

The Domestic Help Service is available for those cases requiring assistance in maintaining the normal household activities.

Hospital Treatment.—Hospital admission for the treatment of respiratory and non-respiratory tuberculosis is no longer associated with any delay, and at the end of the year there was no waiting list.

Cases requiring admission to a thoracic unit may still have a waiting period for a bed but the position has greatly improved, and what was previously a waiting period of months is now reduced to weeks.

During the year 62 patients suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis were treated in the under-mentioned hospitals:—

West Fife Infectious Diseases Hospital	26
Ochil Hills Sanatorium	18
Glenlmond Sanatorium	9
Eastern General Hospital, Edinburgh	2
Royal Victoria, Edinburgh	2
Glen O' Dee Sanatorium	1
Princess Margaret Rose Hospital	1
East Fortune Sanatorium	1
Bangour Hospital	1
Bridge of Weir	1
Total	62

During the year 8 cases of non-pulmonary tuberculosis were treated in the under-mentioned hospitals:—

Glenlmond Sanatorium	6
East Fortune Sanatorium	1
Edinburgh Royal Infirmary	1

Housing.—The importance of a good home environment with no overcrowding is realised and every endeavour is made to see that all tuberculous households are adequately housed. Where the housing conditions are unsatisfactory, high priority is given to rehousing.

During the year 22 families were rehoused.

Disinfection.—Where considered necessary this is carried out on the admission of a patient to hospital and at other times as required. It is undertaken by the Sanitary Inspector's Staff who visit the home, carry out the necessary disinfection, and give general advice.

Households in which there is residing a tuberculous patient may obtain soap and disinfectant free of charge for disinfection purposes.

B.C.G. Vaccination.—Preliminary Mantoux testing and B.C.G. vaccination with conversion Mantoux reading of "school leavers" was undertaken by the Chest Physician, Medical Staff, and Health Visitors of the Health Department.

Consent forms for B.C.G. vaccination and an explanatory leaflet, Leaflet No. 59 of the National Association for the Prevention of Tuberculosis—"To Mother and Father—a word from the M.O.H." were given to the "school leavers."

Parents are now fully aware of the benefit of B.C.G. vaccination and an almost 100 per cent. response was obtained. The co-operation of parents and teachers in this field of preventive medicine is to be commended.

Heaf's multiple puncture apparatus, using adrenalised pure Old Tuberculin, was employed for the Mantoux testing. The method was found to be very satisfactory for dealing with large groups, the test being practically painless and the reactions well defined.

School leavers who were found to have a positive Mantoux in the preliminary testing were screened by the Chest Physician and where considered necessary referred for X-ray examination. No cases of active tuberculosis were detected in this group.

B.C.G. vaccination of all categories, other than school leavers, was performed by the Chest Physician.

The following table shows the numbers tested and vaccinated during the year:—

	Tuberculin tested.		Negative re-actors.		Vaccinated during 1955.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
(1) Nurses	—	29	—	2	—	2
(2) Medical Students	—	—	—	—	—	—
(3) Contacts	77	75	63	60	37	32
(4) Special Groups not included in (1) to (3) above:—						
(a) School leavers	725	766	531	568	531	568
(b) New born babies	—	—	—	—	5	5
(5) Others	—	—	—	—	—	—

Mass Radiography.—No Mass Radiography was undertaken in the burgh during 1955.

(b) EPILEPTICS AND SPASTICS.

There is no further information to report other than the details supplied last year.

(c) CHIROPODY.

A chiropody service is not provided directly by the local authority but this need is met by two voluntary organisations, Dunfermline District Nursing Association and the Dunfermline and Rosyth Old People's Welfare Committee.

Under the auspices of these organisations a chiropody clinic is available in Dunfermline and in Rosyth, and if required home visits for treatment are arranged.

As might be expected the elderly use this service most, and there is no doubt that proper care of the feet plays an important role in the Old People's welfare.

(d) HEALTH EDUCATION.

At all times, whether in the clinic or in the home, the health visitors take every opportunity to foster the principles of healthy living and accident prevention.

During the year members of the Health Department spoke on various health topics to Women's Guilds and Clubs. It has been found by experience that addressing such pre-formed audiences is a more rewarding method than attempting large scale film shows or public meetings. The audience is more interested and there is greater opportunity of answering individual questions.

In Dunfermline Civic Week, an exhibit, on loan from Edinburgh Health Department, depicting accidents in the home was on view. This was seen by many people, especially mothers and children, and brought home most realistically by means of scale models how easily the majority of home accidents are caused and how they can just as readily be prevented.

CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The corrected total number of cases of notifiable infectious diseases (including all forms of tuberculosis) during the year was 853, of which 6 were Service cases.

The highest number of notifications occurred in the second quarter.

DETAILS OF THE CORRECTED NOTIFICATIONS AND INTIMATIONS ARE SHOWN IN THE FOLLOWING TABLE:—

	Cerebro-spinal fever.	Chickenpox.	Dysentery.	Erysipelas.	Measles.	Para-typhoid B. fever.	Pneumonia, broncho	Pneumonia, influenzal.	Pneumonia, lobar.	Poliomyelitis, acute.	Puerperal fever.	Scarlet fever.	Tuberculosis— pulmonary.	Tuberculosis— non-pulmonary.	Whooping cough.	Totals.
January	2	...	6	...	4	...	10	...	...	7	2	...	...	31
February	2	...	...	2	3	...	1	...	...	4	3	1	...	22
March	5	1	1	...	11	...	1	...	...	3	3	...	2	31
April	2	2	...	21	1	5	2	9	...	...	5	2	1	...	50
May	1	...	...	108	1	1	...	5	...	...	2	2	...	1	121
June	2	1	1	274	...	1	...	2	...	...	2	2	...	...	286
July	3	4	1	164	...	1	...	1	1	...	1	1	1	...	178
August	1	...	34	...	4	...	3	...	...	...	3	...	1	46
September	1	...	6	...	3	...	1	...	...	2	...	...	1	14
October	1	3	10	...	2	...	3	...	...	5	2	1	...	28
November	1	6	...	3	...	5	1	1	3	2	...	...	22
December	...	1	...	2	4	...	9	...	3	...	...	2	3	...	...	24
Totals	...	4	19	9	634	4	47	2	53	2	1	36	25	4	5	853

Figures in black denote Service cases and are included in the totals.

Chickenpox.—Eight cases were intimated. In one instance the diagnosis was not confirmed. To the 7 confirmed cases should be added 2 cases notified as bronchitis and scarlet fever. This gives a corrected total of 9 confirmed cases. Four were from the Services. All cases were treated in hospital.

Dysentery.—Twenty-four cases of bacillary dysentery were notified. In 9 instances the diagnosis was not confirmed. To the 15 confirmed cases should be added one case notified as cerebro-spinal fever, one case as meningitis, and 2 cases as gastro-enteritis. This gives a corrected total of 19 confirmed cases. Fifteen cases were treated in hospital.

Erysipelas.—Nine cases of erysipelas were notified. Four cases were treated in hospital.

Gastro-enteritis.—Eighteen cases of this condition were intimated. In 9 instances the diagnosis was not confirmed. To the 9 confirmed cases should be added 8 cases notified as dysentery. This gives a corrected total of 17. All cases were treated in hospital.

Measles.—Although only the first case occurring in the household is notifiable, 633 cases were notified. In one instance the diagnosis was not confirmed. To the 632 confirmed cases should be added one notified as scarlet fever and one case notified as cerebro-spinal fever. This gives a corrected total of 634 confirmed cases. Ten cases were treated in hospital. There were no deaths.

Meningitis.—Fourteen cases of this condition were notified during the year, and of these 3 were meningococcal in origin. All cases were treated in hospital. There were no deaths.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum.—No case was notified during the year.

Para-typhoid B. Fever.—Three cases of this condition were notified during the year. To this should be added one case notified as lobar pneumonia, giving a corrected total of 4 confirmed cases. All cases were treated in hospital and there were no deaths.

Detailed investigation of all possible sources of infection revealed no common source of origin.

Pneumonia.—(a) Broncho-pneumonia.—Fifty-three cases of this condition were notified during the year and in 7 instances the diagnosis was not confirmed. To the 46 confirmed cases should be added one case notified as meningismus. This gives a corrected total of 47 cases. Forty cases occurred in children under 15 years of age. All cases were treated in hospital.

(b) Lobar pneumonia.—Fifty-five cases of lobar pneumonia were notified during the year and in 5 instances the diagnosis was not confirmed, leaving a total of 50 cases. To this must be added one case notified as meningitis, one case as pulmonary embolism, and one case as haemoptysis. This gives a corrected total of 53 cases. There were 2 Service cases. Thirty-five cases were treated in hospital.

(c) Influenzal pneumonia.—Two cases were notified during the year.

The number of deaths at different age groups from all forms of pneumonia, excluding pneumonia of the new born, is shown as follows:—

Age.	Number.
Under 1 year	—
1- 5 years	—
5-15 years	—
15-25 years	—
25-45 years	—
45-65 years	—
65-75 years	4
75-85 years	3
85 years and over	1
Total	8

Poliomyelitis.—Four cases of acute poliomyelitis were notified and in 2 instances the diagnosis was not confirmed. This gives a corrected total of 2 confirmed cases, both were removed to hospital and one died. There was a further death due to this cause, which was transferred in from another area.

Puerperal Fever.—One case of puerperal fever was notified during the year.

Scarlet Fever.—Forty-three cases of scarlet fever were notified and in 8 instances the diagnosis was not confirmed. To the 35 confirmed cases should be added one case notified as measles, giving a corrected total of 36 cases, showing a decrease of 56 cases from last year. All cases were treated in hospital. There were no deaths.

Five persons who were contacts, and whose employment necessitated the handling of food supplies were temporarily suspended from work whilst awaiting clearance throat swabs.

Tuberculosis.—(a) Pulmonary.—The number of cases of pulmonary tuberculosis on the register at the beginning of the year was

The following are the death-rates so far as they are available—

	Respiratory Tuberculosis.	Other forms of Tuberculosis.	Total
1916-1920	1.01	0.50	1.51
1921-1925	0.67	0.33	1.00
1926-1930	0.53	0.22	0.75
1931-1935	0.40	0.18	0.58
1936-1940	0.44	0.09	0.53
1941-1945	0.32	0.12	0.44
1946-1950	0.33	0.07	0.40
1951	0.24	0.00	0.24
1952	0.15	0.03	0.18
1953	0.15	0.05	0.20
1954	0.09	0.02	0.11
1955	0.13	0.02	0.15

Whooping Cough.—Five cases were notified during the year, which compares with 70 for the previous year. One case was treated in hospital. There were no deaths.

Laboratory Services.—These services are undertaken by the Fife District Laboratory, Cameron Hospital, Windygates.

Specimens for the Laboratory are collected daily by their own mobile van.

Treatment and Isolation.—**West Fife Infectious Diseases Hospital.**—By arrangement between Dunfermline Town Council and the South Eastern Regional Hospital Board, the Medical Officer of Health acts as Medical Superintendent, and the clinical duties of the hospital are undertaken by the medical members of the Health Department Staff.

The position therefore remains as it was prior to the National Health Service Act, so that in effect the admission of patients suffering from acute infections remains in the hands of the preventive authority. This is an important feature, for the hospital is a place in and from which a great deal of preventive work can be carried out in relation to the observation of contacts and immunisation. The medical officers working in the field have the daily stimulus of contact with patients while under treatment in hospital, a very important feature in particular for the individual officers concerned and in general for the future of the preventive health service.

Of the 735 patients treated in the West Fife Infectious Diseases Hospital, 326 (which includes 16 Service cases) were from Dunfermline.

line, and the following table shows the distribution of the various diseases:—

	In Hospital 1/1/55.	Admitted during year.	Total.
(a) Civilian Cases:—			
Cerebro-spinal fever.. . . .	1	3	4
Chickenpox	—	5	5
Dysentery	—	14	14
Erysipelas	—	4	4
Measles.. . . .	—	10	10
Miscellaneous.. . . .	3	106	109
Paratyphoid B. fever .. .	1	4	5
Pneumonia, broncho.. . . .	1	47	48
Pneumonia, influenzal .. .	1	—	1
Pneumonia, lobar.. . . .	7	32	39
Poliomyelitis, acute .. .	1	2	3
Puerperal fever	—	1	1
Scarlet fever	—	36	36
Tuberculosis, pulmonary ..	13	17	30
Whooping cough	—	1	1
(b) Service Cases:—			
Chickenpox	—	4	4
Miscellaneous	—	10	10
Pneumonia, lobar	—	2	2
Totals	28	298	326

MENTAL HEALTH.

Administration.—There are two Authorised Officers. The Town Council does not employ psychiatric social workers, nor is an occupation centre provided.

The Physician Superintendent of the Fife Mental Hospital Board and his staff hold a psychiatric clinic once a week at the West Fife Infectious Diseases Hospital, Dunfermline, where they are available for consultation and advice.

Patients on trial or probation are supervised by the authorised officers who arrange maintenance allowances as agents for the Hospital Board.

No duties have been delegated to voluntary associations.

The Assistant Medical Officers are sent in rotation to a Course on Educationally Sub-normal Children and Mental Defectives, organised by the National Association for Mental Health.

Mental defectives are ascertained through the child welfare and school medical services. Non-educable defectives after certification

are referred back by the Education Authority. Supervision of the defectives is carried out by the health visitors who are also school nurses, and by the authorised officers. The authorised officers made 135 domiciliary visits to mental defectives during the year.

Arrangements were made by the authorised officers for the certification and removal of 31 patients to Stratheden Hospital, Cupar. Assistance was also given in a number of cases for voluntary admission. Three mental defectives were certified and placed in institutions.

Fifteen certified patients died in hospital during the year. Twelve were discharged "recovered" and five "relieved." Nine patients were discharged on holiday and returned to hospital. Six patients were discharged on probation for a period of 12 months. Four were returned to hospital, having proved unsuitable. One patient was discharged by escape. The following table shows the age groups of patients admitted:—

Age.	Males.	Females.	Total.
16 years—60 years	5	8	13
60 years and over	7	11	18
Totals	12	19	31

At the close of the year there were 52 mental defectives on the register—14 were under guardianship and 38 were in institutions. Two mental defectives belonging to other authorities and 8 uncertified cases were also under supervision. Maintenance and clothing allowances were paid to those under guardianship. Quarterly visits were made by medical officers authorised by the General Board of Control.

Mental Defectives in Institutions.

Institution.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Royal Scottish National Institution, Larbert	7	3	10
Waverley Park, Kirkintilloch ..	—	1	1
Blinkbonny, Falkirk	—	4	4
Gogarburn, Edinburgh	4	3	7
Strathore, Thornton	6	6	12
St Joseph's, Rosewell	2	2	4
Totals	19	19	38

No occupation centre is provided and there are no arrangements for training of defectives.

Work under Nurseries and Child-Minders' Regulation Act.—No applications for registration were received during the year.

SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICES.

Number of school children in Dunfermline—9,517.

School Medical Inspections were carried out on the usual lines.

Table I. shows the numbers examined, and Table II. shows the defects found. Table III. is a classification of defects by age groups in order of severity.

TABLE I.

A. SYSTEMATIC EXAMINATIONS.

	Number of Children Examined.	
	Boys.	Girls.
Entrants	392	375
Second age group	384	381
Third age group	387	308
Fourth age group	89	37
Totals	1,252	1,101

B. OTHER EXAMINATIONS.

	Boys.	Girls.
Special cases	150	163
Re-inspections	43	35
Non-routines	118	114
Vision group	206	188
Totals	517	500

Number of individual children inspected at systematic examinations who were notified to parents as requiring treatment excluding uncleanness and dental caries:—

	Boys.	Girls.
Entrants	4	—
Second age group	36	57
Third age group	20	23
Fourth age group	2	1
Other systematic examinations	—	—
Totals	62	81

Number of School Medical Inspection Sessions	210
Refraction Clinics (Specialist)	34
Number of Diphtheria Immunisation Sessions at Schools	57
Vision Testing Sessions	17
B.C.G. Vaccination Sessions	18

TABLE II.—Systematic Examinations (Continued).

Nature of Defect.	Entrants.		Second age group.		Third age group.		Fourth age group.	
	Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.
8. Eyes—								
(a) External diseases:								
Blepharitis	1	2	7	3	4	1	2	1
Conjunctivitis	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
Corneal Opacities	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Strabismus	11	7	9	4	5	3	—	—
Other diseases	3	2	1	3	2	1	—	—
(b) Visual acuity—								
6/6	—	—	222	310	163	177	60	30
6/9—6/12	—	—	32	40	23	24	8	5
6/18 and over	—	1	21	15	28	22	5	6
Number with glasses	—	—	14	18	8	17	—	3
Recommended for refraction	—	—	10	11	7	9	2	4
9. Ears—								
(a) Diseases:								
Otorrhoea	4	—	1	1	4	1	—	—
Other diseases	2	14	10	18	9	6	2	1
(b) Defective hearing:								
Grade I.	1	—	2	1	6	—	—	—
Grade II. a	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—
Grade II. b	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Grade III.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10. Speech—								
Defective articulation	6	6	1	—	—	—	—	—
Stammering	—	—	1	—	2	—	—	—
11. Mental and nervous condition—								
(a) Backward (due to irregular attendances, etc.),	—	1	—	2	1	—	—	—
(b) Dull (intrinsically)	1	2	2	—	1	2	—	—
(c) Mentally defective (educable)	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—
(d) Mentally defective (ineducable)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
(e) Highly nervous or unstable	2	—	1	—	—	1	—	—
(f) Difficult in behaviour	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

TABLE III.—Systematic Examinations.

Classification.	Entrants.					Second age-group.		Third age-group.		Fourth age-group.		Total.
	No. of children.	Percentage of the children examined in this group.	No. of children.	Percentage of the children examined in this group.	No. of children.	Percentage of the children examined in this group.	No. of children.	Percentage of the children examined in this group.	No. of children.	Percentage of the children examined in this group.	No. of children.	Percentage of the children examined at systematic medical examinations.
1. Children free from defects	233	30.4	313	40.9	378	54.4	64	50.8	988	42.0		
2. Children (otherwise free from defects) who suffer from—												
(a) Defective vision not worse than 6/12 in the better eye with or without glasses or	5	0.7	39	5.1	56	8.0	17	13.5	117	5.0		
(b) Conditions of the mouth and teeth requiring treatment	102	13.3	51	6.7	61	8.8	3	2.4	217	9.2		
(c) Both (a) and (b)	—	—	4	0.5	4	0.6	2	1.6	10	0.4		
Totals	107	14.0	94	12.3	121	17.4	22	17.5	344	14.6		
3. Children suffering from ailments (other than those mentioned in 2) from which complete recovery is anticipated within a few weeks	353	46.0	286	37.4	150	21.6	37	29.3	826	35.1		
4. Children suffering from (or suspected to be suffering from) defects less remediable than defects specified in 2 or 3 distinguishing cases—												
(a) where complete cure or restoration of function (in the case of eye defect, full correction) is considered possible	64	8.3	67	8.8	37	5.3	2	1.6	170	7.2		
(b) where improvement only is considered possible, e.g., without complete restoration of function	10	1.3	5	0.6	9	1.3	1	0.8	25	1.1		
Totals	74	9.6	72	9.4	46	6.6	3	2.4	195	8.3		
Total number of children examined,	767	100	765	100	695	100	126	100	2,353	100		

Nutrition.—Of the 2,353 school children examined during the year, 71 or 3.02 per cent. were found to suffer from slight nutritional defect.

Attendance of Parents.—A notice of the forthcoming medical inspection is sent to the parents of each child and they are invited to attend. Their attendance is very much in the child's interest, as it enables the doctor to ascertain precise details of past illnesses and family history. Should treatment of any condition be required, personal explanation is more satisfactory than any written notice and more likely to be effective. During the year parents have continued to co-operate in this way, especially in the more junior age groups.

It is unfortunately true, however, that on the whole we do not see the parents of the children who are most in need of attention. The careful mother of the well-cared for child attends, and has the satisfaction of learning that all is well. When a child's condition is less satisfactory it is very often found that lack of parental interest extends to school medical inspection and opportunity for discussion is not afforded.

Of 767 entrant infants examined, 548 were accompanied by parents, and of 1,586 other children examined, parents were present in 372 instances.

Refusal of Medical Inspection.—The number of refusals was again a negligible percentage of the number of children examined. There were, in all, 11 refusals, representing 0.47 per cent.

Health Visitors' Inspections.—The health visitors carry out inspections of heads and clothing, and where necessary refer cases to the school clinic for treatment. "Follow up" visits were also made to ensure that their suggestions and instructions were being acted upon.

Number of children seen by health visitors at inspections	19,923
Number re-inspected (<i>i.e.</i> children with defect at a previous inspection)	1,520
Number of homes visited	173

Treatment.—During the year the Medical Officer of Health continued to be responsible for the treatment of school children, under the arrangement made with the Carnegie Dunfermline Trust and Dunfermline Town Council. The medical aspect of the work was undertaken by the medical members of the Health Department staff.

I take this opportunity of conveying to the members of the Carnegie Dunfermline Trust staff engaged in this work my cordial thanks and appreciation for their help and co-operation.

General Clinic.

	No. of Cases.	No. of Attendances.
Defective speech	28	446
Ear, nose and throat	380	730
Eye	229	440
Orthopædic	355	3,520
Other conditions	3,009	5,480
Skin	1,191	4,256
U.V.R. treatment	39	968
Totals	5,231	15,840

Dental Clinic.

Dental inspections	3,715
No. of cases	3,282
No. of attendances	6,016

Specialist Clinics.—(a) **Ear, Nose and Throat Clinic.**—Ten specialist clinics were held during the year, at which 154 school children were seen by the Consultant.

(b) **Eye Clinic.**—Ophthalmic treatment of school children was carried out by the Consultant. The report of the year's work in this clinic is shown in the following table:—

Number of sessions	34			
	No. of cases examined.		No. of cases re-examined.	
	Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.
Hypermetropia	8	13	16	11
Hypermetropic astigmatism	21	7	41	35
Myopia	21	24	26	21
Myopic astigmatism	6	4	9	16
Mixed astigmatism	—	3	3	5
Emmetropia	20	15	14	10
External Eye Condition	1	1	—	—
Totals	77	67	109	98
Both Sexes	144		207	
Frames fitted	82 boys and 80 girls.			

(c) **Orthopaedic Clinic.**—Eleven specialist clinics were held during the year at which 209 school children were seen by the Consultant.

Co-operation of Teachers.—Headmasters and teachers continued to co-operate and proved very helpful in referring ailing children for examination. Their interest and assistance are invaluable and greatly facilitate the work of school medical inspection.

Special Medical Examination of Mentally and Physically Handicapped Children.—Seven mentally handicapped and 5 physically handicapped children were examined and initial reports forwarded to the County Medical Officer of Health.

PORT HEALTH ADMINISTRATION.

The arrangements made under the Port Sanitary Regulations (Scotland), 1933 and 1945, were satisfactory.

A total of 11 ships arrived at Rosyth from foreign ports and all were granted pratique.

APPENDIX I.

Infant deaths classified according to age groups and causes of deaths.

Causes of Death.		Under 1 week.	1 week and under 4 weeks.	4 weeks and under 3 months.	3 months and under 6 months.	6 months and under 12 months.	Total deaths under 1 year.
All Causes	Certified	13	3	2	2	2	22
	Uncertified.. . . .	—	—	—	—	—	—
Prematurity		4	3	—	—	—	7
Natural causes. Probably enteritis.							
Bronchitis		—	—	—	1	—	1
Bronchitis		—	—	—	—	1	1
Congenital absence of left lung .. .		1	—	—	—	—	1
Pulmonary hyaline membrane		3	—	—	—	—	3
Foetal exsanguination. Cerebral anoxia,		1	—	—	—	—	1
Sub-dural hæmorrhage.. . . .		1	—	—	—	—	1
Sub-dural hæmatoma		1	—	—	—	—	1
Intra pulmonary hæmorrhage.. . . .		1	—	—	—	—	1
Asphyxia		1	—	—	1	—	2
Fibrocystic disease. Pneumonia .. .		—	—	—	—	1	1
Pyloric stenosis		—	—	2	—	—	2
Totals		13	3	2	2	2	22

APPENDIX II.

Cases of Infectious Diseases (excluding Tuberculosis) notified from 1st January 1955 to 31st December 1955.

Disease.		Number of Cases coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health and accepted by him as suffering from the stated disease.											
		At Age—Years.										Cases removed to Hospital.	Cases not removed to Hospital.
		At all ages	Under 1.	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 35.	35 and under 45.	45 and under 65.	65 and upwards.			
Cerebro-spinal fever	M.	2	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	2	...
	F.	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
		4				4					4		
Chickenpox	M.	7	...	3	...	4	...	...	...	...	7	...
	F.	2	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	2	...
Dysentery	M.	9	...	4	4	...	1	...	...	...	7	2
	F.	10	...	1	2	3	3	...	...	1	8	2
Erysipelas	M.	5	...	...	...	...	1	...	3	1	1	4
	F.	4	...	1	...	...	...	1	2	...	3	1
Measles	M.	339	2	140	196	1	...	...	...	...	3	336
	F.	295	2	125	167	...	1	...	...	...	7	288
Pneumonia, influenzal	M.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	F.	2	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	2
		2				2					2		
Pneumonia, lobar	M.	33	...	...	4	4	...	6	9	10	20	13
	F.	20	...	...	2	2	3	2	5	6	15	5
Pneumonia (not otherwise notifiable)	M.	27	12	11	1	...	...	...	1	2	27	...
	F.	20	5	10	1	...	...	...	...	4	20	...
Poliomyelitis	M.	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	...
	F.	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
Puerperal fever	M.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	F.	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...
Scarlet fever	M.	17	...	5	12	...	...	...	...	...	17	...
	F.	19	...	5	11	3	...	...	...	...	19	...
Para-typhoid B fever	M.	3	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	1	3	...
	F.	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...
Whooping cough	M.	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
	F.	4	2	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	1	3
		6				6					6		
TOTALS	M.	444	14	164	219	10	2	7	14	14	88	356	
	F.	380	10	143	187	8	9	3	9	11	79	301	

The figures in black denote Service cases and are included in the totals.

APPENDIX III.

PART I.—RESPIRATORY TUBERCULOSIS.

1.—Number of cases formally notified or regarded as notified from 1st January 1955 to 31st December 1955.

	Age-Groups.									Totals.
	Under 1	1-5	5-15	15-25	25-35	35-45	45-55	55-65	65 and upwards.	
Males	—	1	1	2	1	4	1	3	—	13
Females	—	—	2	3	3	1	1	—	2	12
Totals	—	1	3	5	4	5	2	3	2	25

2.—Number of cases confirmed to be suffering from active respiratory tuberculosis during the year (excluding transfers in by another Authority).

	Age-Groups.									Totals.
	Under 1	1-5	5-15	15-25	25-35	35-45	45-55	55-65	65 and upwards.	
Males	—	1	—	2	1	4	1	3	—	12
Females	—	—	—	3	2	1	1	—	2	9
Totals	—	1	—	5	3	5	2	3	2	21

3.—Methods by which new patients were discovered to be suffering from respiratory tuberculosis during the year.

Symptom group examination (M.M.R. or other)	19
Contact group examination (M.M.R. or other)	2
Total	21

4.—Number of new cases in Table 2 admitted to Hospital for tuberculosis treatment for the first time during the year.

	Under 15 years.	15 to under 45.	45 and over.	Totals.
Males	1	7	2	10
Females	—	3	1	4
Totals	1	10	3	14

HOSPITAL ADMISSIONS AND DISCHARGES (RESPIRATORY TUBERCULOSIS).

5.—Number of patients admitted to, discharged from or dying in Tuberculosis Hospitals, Sanatoria or wards in other Hospitals reserved for the treatment of the tuberculous.

	In Hospital 1:1:55.	Admitted.	Discharged.	Died in Hospital.	In Hospital 31:12:55.
Under 15 years—Male	2	1	2	—	1
Female	2	1	1	—	2
15-45 years—Male.. .. .	14	10	20	1	3
Female	13	8	11	—	10
45 years and over—Male.. ..	6	2	4	1	3
Female	1	2	1	1	1
Totals	38	24	39	3	20

6.—Number of patients dying from respiratory tuberculosis in Hospital accommodation other than that reserved for tuberculous patients Nil.

WAITING LIST.

7.—There was no waiting list at 31st December.

PART II.—NON-RESPIRATORY TUBERCULOSIS.

8.—Number of cases formally notified or regarded as notified as suffering from non-respiratory tuberculosis during the year.

	Age-Groups.									
	Under 1	1-5	5-15	15-25	25-35	35-45	45-55	55-65	65 and upwards.	Totals.
Males	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Females	—	—	1	—	—	2	—	—	—	3
Totals. . . .	—	—	1	—	1	2	—	—	—	4

9.—Number of cases notified, or intimated, confirmed to be suffering from active non-respiratory tuberculosis during the year (excluding transfers in by another Authority).

		Age-Groups.									Totals.
Sex.		Under 1	1-5	5-15	15-25	25-35	35-45	45-55	55-65	65 and upwards.	
1. Abdominal	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
2. Bones and Joints	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
3. Genito-urinary organs	M	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
	F	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Totals		—	—	1	—	1	2	—	—	—	4

PART III.—ANALYSIS OF TUBERCULOSIS DEATHS.

10.—Number of persons who died from tuberculosis in the area during the year with the period elapsing between notification or intimation and death.

		Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.	
		M	F	M	F
Number of persons who died from tuberculosis of whom—					
Not notified or notified only at or after death		—	2	—	—
Notified less than 1 month before death		—	1	—	—
Notified from 1 to 3 months before death		1	—	—	—
Notified from 3 to 6 months before death		—	—	—	—
Notified from 6 to 12 months before death		—	—	—	—
Notified from 1 to 2 years before death		—	—	—	1
Notified over 2 years before death		1	1	—	—
Totals		2	4	—	1

PART IV.—THE TUBERCULOSIS REGISTER.

Return of number of persons resident in the area at 31st December 1955 who were known to be suffering from tuberculosis.

	Under 1	Age-Groups.								Totals.
		1-5	5-15	15-25	25-35	35-45	45-55	55-65	65 and upwards.	
1. Respiratory—Males	—	2	11	30	41	37	23	18	1	163
Females	—	—	8	48	58	23	5	8	2	152
2. Non-Respiratory—Males	—	—	6	6	1	3	1	—	1	18
Females	—	—	6	2	6	8	2	3	1	28



City and Royal Burgh of Dunfermline

ANNUAL REPORT

ON THE

GENERAL SANITARY CONDITION OF THE BURGH

FOR THE YEAR

1955

BY

ALEXR. H. DUNCAN, M.R.S.H., M.INST.P.C., M.I.T.A.,
Chief Sanitary Inspector and Inspector of Cleansing.

Sanitary Inspector's Office,
35 Queen Anne Street,
Dunfermline,

26th July 1956.

*To the Department of Health for Scotland,
and the Provost, Magistrates, and Councillors
of the City and Royal Burgh of Dunfermline*

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report on the general sanitary condition of the Burgh and the work performed by the Sanitary and Cleansing Departments during the year 1955.

This report has been compiled in accordance with the terms of D.H.S. Circular No. 63/1955.

STATISTICS.

Area of Burgh in Acres	7,674
Miles of Streets, etc.	61.38
Population	45,200
Number of Inhabitated Houses	13,740
Gross Valuation	£487,872
Net Rateable Value	£432,199 10/-
Sum represented by Id. Rate—Owner	£1,792
Occupier	1,781
	<hr/> £3,573

GENERAL SANITATION.

Water Supply :

During the year, renewals, enlargements, and extensions to water mains were carried out conform to Town Council policy and these included 336 lineal yards of 15 inch spun iron concrete lined pipes on the Craigluscar to Wellwood main, while in the Wellwood and Townhill area, including Main Street and Muir Road in the latter, 250 lineal yards 6 inch spun iron pipe, 200 lineal yards 4 inch spun iron pipe and 10 lineal yards 3 inch spun iron pipe were laid in an endeavour to augment the supply of water.

As a result of similar action in the Elgin Street to Grange Road area, it was necessary to lay 694 lineal yards of 6 inch spun iron pipe and 376 lineal yards 4 inch spun iron pipe in Reid Street and Rolland Street, prior to resurfacing operations thereon. At Castlandhill, Rosyth, some 260 lineal yards 4 inch spun iron pipe were laid and 164 lineal yards 4 inch spun pipe at Halbeath Road and Touch, while 117 lineal yards 4 inch spun iron pipe were laid to provide a suitable water supply at the Leys Park Road Depot.

The continuation of site preparation at the Aberdour Road Housing Site resulted in the laying of 690 lineal yards of 6 inch spun iron pipe and 165 lineal yards of 4 inch spun iron pipe.

The total quantity of water in storage as at 31st December 1955 was 193,505,000 gallons, of which 152,369,000 gallons were in Glensherup Reservoir and 41,136,000 gallons in the Reservoir at Craigluscar.

The water supply to the Burgh is sufficient in quantity, a fact which was amply demonstrated during the recent exceptionally dry summer when no precautionary measures were instituted to minimise the consumption and the quality is satisfactory, a condition achieved in part by the regular chlorination of both sources of supply.

The average consumption of water per head per day for domestic purposes (unmetered) was 33.47 gallons and for trade purposes (metered) was 16.99 gallons, a total per head per day of 50.46 gallons, these figures showing some reduction on the comparative statistics for last year.

One complaint was received during the year concerning the unsatisfactory condition of the water supply, and on investigation this proved to be due to the temporary cessation of supply, necessitated by a burst main pipe, with the resultant entry or

deposition of sediment into the system, scouring of which achieved the desired improvement.

Drainage :

Fifty-eight complaints were recorded during the year relative to choked and defective drainage, and the necessary remedial measures were effected by the owners on receipt of verbal and written intimation.

Three hundred and eighty-seven smoke tests and 203 colour tests were applied to the drains of new and existing property.

The progressing development of the Aberdour Road Housing Scheme necessitated the extension of the Burgh sewerage system when, 207 lineal yards of 12 inch fireclay pipes were laid at the Aberdour Road Scheme and 360 lineal yards of 6 inch fireclay pipes were laid to serve the Community Centre, Aberdour Road.

To replace the existing sewer at Beechmount Place, Townhill, 116 yards 12 inch pipes were laid.

Main Drainage :

The duplication of the Lyne Burn sewer and the storm water relief sewer as mentioned in previous reports were completed during the year and both these systems operate with success.

Sewage Purification and Disposal :

The method of sewage disposal adopted by the Burgh is by means of outfall sewers discharging at two points into the Forth Estuary. This method of disposal continues to operate satisfactorily, there being no evidence of nuisance created and no complaints relative to same were received. The few isolated septic tanks still in operation within the Burgh are adequately maintained with no evidence of nuisance.

Sanitary Conveniences :

Following the re-distribution of the Burgh's Municipal Wards a complete survey was made regarding dry closets and the incidence of water closets used in common.

The number of dry closets, etc., in the Burgh is:—

Dry Closets	12
Chemical Closets	15
No Sanitary Accommodation	1
Ashpits	12

The following table shows the number of water closets used in common:—

Common W.C's.	Ward I.	D'line	Ward II. Kingseat	Townhill	Ward III.	Ward IV	Ward V.	Ward VI.	Ward VII.	Total.
Families										
1 for 2	168	17	16	24	174	19	—	—	—	418
1 „ 3	93	3	3	11	53	14	2	—	—	179
1 „ 4	45	2	—	8	36	7	1	—	—	99
1 „ 5	11	—	—	1	12	—	—	—	—	24
1 „ 6	1	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	3
Totals ...	318	22	19	44	277	40	3	—	—	723

There were 17 additional water closets provided during the year.

Outside Water Supply :

As the result of the closure of unfit houses and the improvement of others, the incidence of houses not provided with an inside water supply is now as follows:—

Supply Outside Building.						Supply Inside Building.					
Wards.	1 for 1	1 for 2	1 for 3	1 for 4	Houses.	1 for 1	1 for 2	1 for 3	1 for 4	Houses.	Total.
I. ..	2	1	—	—	4	3	12	1	—	30	34
II. ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
III. ..	1	3	—	—	7	6	11	2	—	34	41
IV. ..	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
V. ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
VI. ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
VII. ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals ..	4	4	—	—	12	9	23	3	—	64	76

Lack of Cleanliness in Common Water Closets :

It was found necessary on five occasions to serve notices on occupiers calling upon them to maintain water closets in a proper state of cleanliness and on three occasions weekly rotation cards were issued in terms of Section 117 of the Burgh Police (Scotland) Act, 1892, where occupiers failed to carry out the required cleansing in weekly rotation.

Defects in Water Closets :

The existence of 13 defective W.C. compartments, 17 defective W.C. basins or cisterns, and 5 choked W.C. basins was intimated

to the owners concerned and subsequent inspections served to show that the necessary repairs had been effected.

Wash-House Byelaws :

Two notices were served upon owners intimating the existence of structural defects in wash-houses, and as a result of subsequent re-inspections it was observed that these defects were receiving attention.

Rivers Pollution :

There were two complaints received during the year relative to the pollution of streams within the Burgh. These complaints related to streams into which refuse and offensive matter had been deposited by neighbouring householders and children playing in the vicinity. As a result of the exceptionally dry and warm summer, most of the streams within the Burgh were dry or considerably reduced in flow, in consequence of which offensive smells were emitted from the beds of the streams. In both the above cases, the refuse and offensive matter was removed, warnings given to the tenants and the bed of the stream treated with disinfectant.

Offensive Trades :

The offensive trades carried on within the Burgh are the Slaughter of Cattle, Tripe Dressing, and Gut Scraping, all of which are situated within the Corporation Slaughterhouse. There were no complaints received regarding the conduct of any of these trades and no evidence of pest infestation was found during inspection.

Schools :

There are now 17 schools in the Burgh, 16 of which are administered by the Fife Education Authority, the other being a private fee paying school conducted by a private body, but available for inspection by the Local Authority and the educational inspectorate staff of the Fife Education Authority. These schools were regularly inspected during the year, and a collateral report by the Medical Officer of Health and the Chief Sanitary Inspector on each individual school was sent to the responsible authorities.

The new Pitcorthie School, as mentioned in last year's report, was formally opened in August of this year. It is an ultra-modern building, having 16 classrooms, gymnasium, concert hall, annexed kitchen, and dining-room, and extensive playing fields. It caters

for approximately 500 pupils, with adequate accommodation for medical and dental inspection. This building, although similar in many respects to those new schools functioning in the Burgh, shows many improvements gained by architectural experiment at these other schools.

Improvements and repairs have been effected on the school buildings within the Burgh during the year, but in many of the older schools the position still leaves a lot to be desired relative to lighting, ventilation, heating, and satisfactory toilet facilities. The installation of electric lighting in two schools previously lit by gas is a real improvement, while the erection of four additional classrooms at the High School has helped to alleviate the overcrowding of classrooms, and at the end of the year plans were approved for the erection of new toilet accommodation at one school to replace the somewhat obsolete facilities at present available. It is hoped that early in the year these will be completed.

Factories Acts, 1937 and 1948:

The number and types of mechanical and non-mechanical factories in the Burgh are shown herewith:—

MECHANICAL.

Aerated Waters, Beer, and Whisky		Brought forward	91
Bottling	6	Joiners	13
Bacon Curing	1	Laundries	4
Bakeries	14	Millers	3
Blacksmiths	3	Motor Vehicle Repairs	21
Boot Repairing	3	Photographers	4
Brick and Pie Making	1	Plumbers	5
Butchers	25	Potato Crisp Manufacturer	1
Coachbuilders	3	Preserved Meats	1
Concrete Makers	3	Printers	5
Coppersmith and Brassfounder ..	1	Rag and Metal Sorting	1
Coffin Furnishing	1	Rubber Shoes and Allied Products,	1
Dairy	1	Sawmill	1
Dressmaking	5	Sheet Metal Worker	1
Electrical Generation	2	Tailoring	3
Embroidery	4	Tile Slabbing	1
Engineering	11	Toy Balloon Manufacturer	1
Firewood Cutting	2	Upholsterers and Furniture Manu-	
French Polishing	1	facturers	3
Glazing	2	Watch and Clock Repairing	4
Golf Club Manufacturer	1	Weaving	8
Gut Scraping	1		
Carried forward	91	Total	172

NON-MECHANICAL.

Cleansing and Grading of Hides ..	1	Brought forward	10
Dressmaking	2	Tailoring	2
Photography	1	Tripe Dressing	1
Plumbers	5	Upholsterers	4
Saddlery	1	Watch and Clock Repairs	2
Carried forward	10	Total	19

During the year 106 inspections were made to factories and as a result of these inspections 12 written and 22 verbal intimations were issued.

The following tabulated statement was submitted to the Ministry of Labour and National Service, viz.:—

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 AND 1948.

Prescribed particulars on the administration of the Factories Act, 1937.

1.—INSPECTIONS.

PREMISES	No. on Register	No. of Inspections	No. of Written Notices	No. of Occupiers Prosecuted
(I.) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities,	19	20	—	—
(II.) Factories not included in (I) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	173	74	12	—
(III.) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises).. . . .	12	12	—	—
Total	204	106	12	—

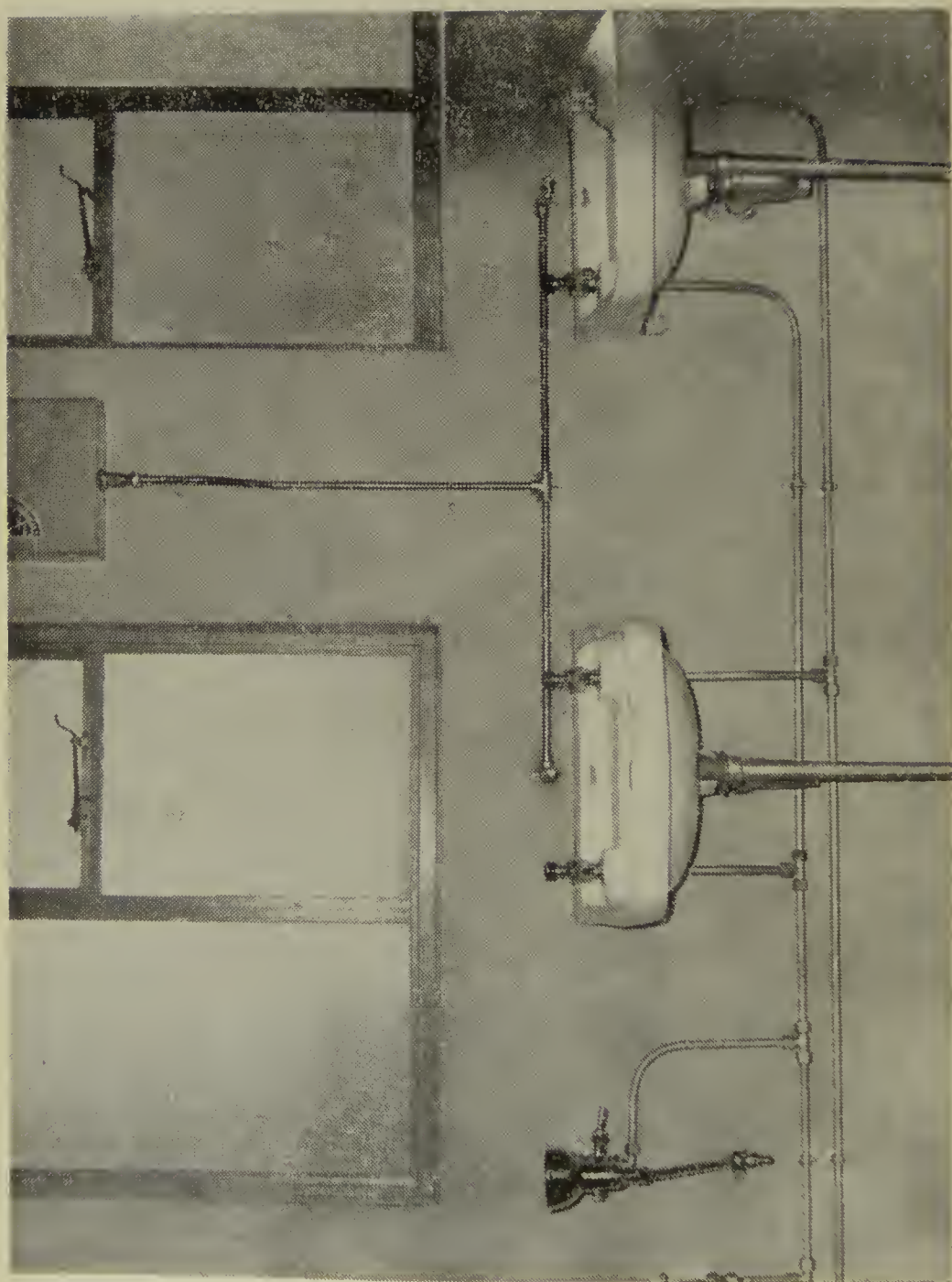
2.—DEFECTS FOUND.

Number of cases in which defects were found.

PARTICULARS	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	Referred by H.M. Inspector	Number of Prosecutions
Want of cleanliness	8	8	—	—	—
Overcrowding	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors.. . . .	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary conveniences—					
(a) Insufficient	2	2	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	3	2	—	2	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	2	2	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to outwork)	2	2	—	—	—
Total	17	16	—	2	—

During the year first class sanitary accommodation (photographs herewith) for both males and females was provided at the factory premises of St Margaret's Works and it is hoped that this venture on the part of this firm will be respected by the employees concerned as there is no doubt that this particular installation merits considerable commendation, reflecting, as it does, great credit on the management for their progressive outlook in this sphere of industrial hygiene.





The structure is constructed throughout with smooth, jointless surfaces on both floors and walls, thereby assisting the maintenance of hygienic conditions, while the fittings and other appliances are of a similar high standard, the whole representing a pleasing and attractive appearance, a striking contrast to the all too common drab and inadequate type of convenience usually in evidence.

Houses Let in Lodgings :

Seventeen visits of inspection were made to premises in Chapel Street used as Houses Let in Lodgings when it was found necessary to issue three verbal intimations in respect of certain unsatisfactory conditions found therein.' By mutual agreement between the owner of these premises and the Town Council the occupiers of these sub-let apartments, numbering approximately 20, were housed in Corporation houses on condition that the premises would no longer be used for human habitation, so that by the end of the year only one apartment was occupied, the occupier being a single person who at present is not eligible for a Corporation house. These premises, it is understood, may in the future be converted and let as offices or business premises, but in the meantime regular inspections are carried out to ensure compliance with the agreement.

Common Lodging House :

Regular inspections, amounting to 35, were made to the Lodging House and the existence of any structural defects or insanitary conditions were intimated verbally or in writing to the keeper.

The average number of men residing in the Lodging House during the year was 79.

Nuisances :

Five hundred and fifty-six complaints were received during the year, of which 6 were found to be unjustified.

A total of 481 nuisances were dealt with, in the course of which 137 written and 176 verbal intimations were given and 492 inspections were made. Subsequent visits were made to ascertain the progress of repairs, etc., and as a result 34 second and 5 final notices were issued.

The following table shows the number and variety of the nuisances dealt with during the year:—

Accumulations	17	House sinks defective	1
Animals causing nuisance	3	Houses general defects	44
Areas, etc., dirty	21	Offensive smells	25
Atmospheric pollution	12	Premises pest infested and verminous, ..	37
Condition of footpaths	2	Rainwater fittings defective	16
Drains choked	48	Sewers choked	2
Drains defective	10	Shaking of mats	2
Dryrot	3	Streams polluted	2
Dust causing nuisance	2	Sweeping of stairs	1
Flooding of areas	6	Unhygienic conditions in licensed premises	1
Food contamination	8	Wash-houses defective	2
Gas supplies defective	5	Waste and soil pipes defective ..	11
Gullies choked	1	W.C. compartments defective	13
House bunkers defective	1	W.C.s choked	5
Houses damp	63	W.C. cleaning and use of	2
Houses dirty	10	W.C.s defective	17
House ceilings defective	8	Water pipes burst	16
House chimneys defective	9	Water supply inadequate	3
House floors defective	9	Weeds causing nuisance	2
House roofs defective	41		

Burial Grounds :

I am indebted to Mr. J. W. Gladstone, Burial Grounds Superintendent, for the following table which shows the number of interments for each calendar month at the three burial grounds situated within the Burgh, viz.:—

	Dunfermline Cemetery.	Douglas Bank Cemetery.	Abbey Churchyard.
January	47	9	—
February	25	3	—
March	48	8	—
April	45	—	—
May	26	3	—
June	27	6	—
July	31	2	—
August	30	9	—
September	31	6	—
October	28	9	—
November	33	4	—
December	41	7	—
Totals	412	66	—

Tents, Vans, and Sheds :

At the end of the year there was only one caravan situated within the Burgh. It was occupied by the owner and his wife and was found on inspections to be in a clean and wholesome condition. The site has a readily accessible water supply, drainage to a septic tank, and suitable sanitary accommodation.

During the year two other caravans visited the Burgh taking up isolated sites within the precincts of two different farms. However, after due notification to the respective owners, requiring the provision of a sufficient water supply and suitable sanitary accommodation, these caravans moved outwith the Burgh. A converted mobile passenger 'bus occupied by a family of six persons, while en route to an unknown destination, occupied a site at Seggsburn for a period of approximately six weeks, but on being required to provide the necessary facilities moved on to another district.

In March and in October, the "shows" visited St. Leonard's Showground when on both occasions there were 20 caravans housing approximately 34 adult males, 33 adult females, 11 boys, and 3 girls, making a total of approximately 81 persons.

In May, a Circus visited the same showground when there were 8 caravans housing 7 adult males, 8 adult females, and 1 boy, a total of 16 persons.

In July a large travelling Circus visited the Public Park, where performances were carried out for six days. The number of caravans varied from 50 to 60 on account of early departure of their advance party.

All the above caravans were inspected and found in a clean and wholesome condition. The hygienic standard in most of these caravans is very high and some are equipped with the most modern cooking and washing facilities. All refuse, kitchen waste, and manure were regularly removed by the Cleansing Department.

On three occasions exception had to be taken to tinkers camping in the Seggsburn area, but, after due warning, these families moved on, and in one case a smouldering fire was left, which set fire to the undergrowth, necessitating an authoritative call by the Fire Service.

Pest Infested Houses :

Thirty-seven complaints were received regarding the existence of insect pests in or adjoining premises. The majority of these complaints were caused by the presence of furniture beetles in floors, doors, skirtings, and furniture, while other causes were beetles, flies, fleas, and cockroaches. In addition to the above, there were two complaints in respect of bed bugs, probably introduced through the negligence of families being rehoused from areas outwith the Burgh. These were all successfully eradicated by the proper application of the appropriate insecticide.

Public Baths :

The Public Baths and District Institutes were regularly inspected and found to be efficiently administered and supervised by Mr. Robert Gardner, Engineer-Superintendent, and his staff.

During the year five samples of water for bacteriological examination and four for chemical analysis were taken from the Swimming Pool, Carnegie Baths, all of which were reported satisfactory.

Four samples of water, two for chemical analysis and two for bacteriological examination, were taken from the Paddling Pools at Rosyth and Townhill. The Analyst stated that both samples were satisfactory, while the bacteriologist reported a suspicious degree of pollution in the sample taken from the Paddling Pool, Townhill.

The Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949 :

In compliance with request from the Department of Agriculture for Scotland, the following report was submitted, viz.:—

THE PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949 (PART I). RATS AND MICE.

Report for Year 1st January—31st December 1955.

I. *Local Authority's Control Organisation for the Purposes of the Act.*

The Health Committee has been delegated by the Town Council to assume its responsibilities under this Act and in turn the Sanitary Department has been charged with the administrative work therein involved.

II. *General Directions or Decisions of the Local Authority as to the Work of the Control Organisation.*

As previously reported the actual surveys of any infested properties and the advising thereafter of the owners and/or occupiers of same are carried out by a qualified Sanitary Inspector.

III. *Measures taken for the Discovery, Prevention, and Control of Rats and Mice in the Local Authority's Area.*

These include surveys and inspection of buildings, areas, open spaces, streams, refuse coups, sewers, etc., and thereafter where necessary, the treatment of all infested places, with the subsequent execution of rat proofing measures where such are required.

IV. *Measures taken regarding properties specially liable to infestation in the Local Authority's Area.*

In the case of such properties, the procedure evolved in former years has been continued and where considered advisable, extended and intensified, with a view to creating a vermin repression consciousness amongst the populace. These efforts included timeous warning and advice to owners and/or occupiers of factories, shops, offices, farms, etc.

V. *Action (if any) taken under the Prevention of Damage by Pests (Application to Shipping) Order, 1951.*

None.

VI. General.

There were no difficulties or untoward features encountered during the year 1956 but in addition to the work of rat and mice extermination effected, the Department were requested to assist in other pest infestations as a result of which seven moles were trapped, one rabbit shot, and one trapped, while 1,031 pigeons and 47 eggs were destroyed.

TYPE OF PROPERTY.

	Local Authority Properties	Dwelling Houses	Business or Industrial Premises	Agricul- tural Properties	Total
1. Number of properties inspected by the Local Authority during 1955 as a result of notification or otherwise (see Notes below)	13	88	30	1	132
2. Number of above properties found to be infested by rats or mice	13	77	29	1	120
3. Number of above infested properties cleared to the satisfaction of the Local Authority:—					
(a) As separate units	13	66	24	1	104
(b) In course of "block" operations carried out under Section 6(1) or under informal arrangements	—	9	5	—	14
Total	13	75	29	1	118
4. Number of notices served under Section 4:—					
(a) Treatment	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
(b) Works	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Total	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
5. Number of cases in which default action was taken by Local Authority following issue of notice under Section 4	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
6. Number of notices issued under Section 6(2)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
7. Number of ships treated	Nil				
8. Number of Rodent Control Certificates issued	Nil				

During the year the undernoted premises were dealt with and the following number of rats and mice were destroyed.

Bakeries	3	Library	1
Cafes	1	Nursery	1
Clubs	1	Parks and Open Spaces	3
Coups	1	Railway Property	1
Dwelling-houses	88	Schools	2
Factories	4	Sewers	3
Garages and Workshops	2	Shops	14
Hospitals	1	Streams	4
Institutions	2	Yards	3

Total number of premises	135
Number of rats trapped	2
Number of rats poisoned	739
Number of rats gassed	Nil
Total number of rats destroyed	741
Number of mice trapped	6
Number of mice poisoned	1,329
Total number of mice destroyed	1,335
Total number of visits to premises	1.066

Atmospheric Pollution :

During the year 12 complaints were received regarding alleged excessive emission of smoke from the chimneys of factories and other premises and, following observations, 6 written and 13 verbal intimations were issued.

Eighty visits were made to premises ranging from greenhouses to factories and 28 smoke observations were taken of chimneys where smoke emission was noted to be excessive.

Improvements instituted during the year included the substitution of smokeless fuel in two boilers and alterations to a diesel generator to reduce the density of exhaust fumes.

The delivery of a new shunting diesel electric locomotive to replace the old coal burning shunting engine at present in use by British Railways within the Burgh is expected early in 1956. This replacement will greatly reduce low level pollution of the atmosphere at the Upper and Lower Stations.

Several visits were made in collaboration with technicians from the N.I.F.E.S. and generally their advice has been accepted and acted upon by the management of the firms concerned. There is a trend towards the installation of mechanical stokers and the conversion from coal to oil fuel, which should eventually reduce atmospheric pollution, although in the meantime much more could be done by intelligent and careful stoking of hand fired steel boilers. Special classes for boiler firemen are held in the local Technical College and although many firemen have taken a keen interest in these courses, there is always the exception who is indifferent to this endeavour to teach the rudiments of boiler-house practice, and will continue, if allowed by his employer, to pollute the atmosphere and waste precious fuel.

The advent of the Clean Air Act, it is hoped, will bring into line those firms who at present have no regard to the hazards caused by the emission of excessive smoke.

Piggeries :

There are now 2 piggeries in the Burgh, one of these being long established, while the other came into operation during the year. These premises are managed in an efficient and hygienic manner and the Burgh Byelaws relative to piggeries strictly adhered to. Five visits of inspection were made to these premises during the year.

Fertilisers and Feeding Stuffs Act, 1926 :

Eight samples were taken during the year under the above Act and submitted to the Public Analyst who reported as follows:—

No. of Samples Taken.	Nature.	Conform.	Non-Conform.
1	Dried Blood	1	—
1	Sulphate of Ammonia	1	—
1	Bone Meal	1	—
1	Plant Food Tablets	—	1
1	Liquid Manure	1	—
1	Autumn Turf Dressing	1	—
1	Hen Battery Pellets	1	—
1	Dry Chick Feed	1	—

The Analyst reported that the sample of Plant Food Tablets did not conform to the guarantee on account of a deficiency of 1.32 per cent. Phosphoric Acid (P_2O_5). This matter was immediately taken up with the retailing firm concerned, who, in turn, reported the deficiency to the manufacturers. The product was then withdrawn from sale pending further analysis and rectification of the deficiency.

Rag Flock and Other Filling Materials Act, 1951 :

The premises registered under the above Acts were regularly inspected and inspections revealed that the records required to be kept under The Rag Flock Regulations were in order.

Two samples, one of Coir Fibre and one of Jute, were taken and submitted to the Public Analyst who reported that both conformed to the requirements of the Act.

Pet Animals Act :

Four licences were granted during the year in respect of premises used for the keeping of pets, while 10 visits of inspection were made to these premises and one verbal intimation issued.

Shops Act, 1950 :

One hundred and nineteen inspections were made in accordance with the provisions of the above Act and 21 written and 8 verbal intimations were issued.

Improvements carried out included the provision of additional sanitary accommodation and washing facilities in three shops and the installation of new W.C. accommodation in other two.

It was found necessary to warn five shopkeepers for failure to exhibit the statutory notice regarding the Assistants' Half-Holiday, three for failure to keep records relative to young persons, three for not displaying the Abstract of the Act, and one for failure to exhibit the notice pertaining to seats for female employees.

Five shopkeepers were warned regarding non-compliance with the conditions regulating transactions in "mixed" shops and the notices relating thereto.

In five cases intimations requesting new or improved sanitary accommodation and/or washing facilities resulted in the necessary fittings being installed.

With regard to Closing Hours, evening inspections revealed that eight premises (including four mobile shops) were open for retail sales outwith the hours permitted by the Act. In each case, written intimation was made to the offenders and re-visits proved that the practice had ceased.

A further case relative to the delivery of bakery rolls being delivered outwith the normal closing hours was passed on to the Burgh Prosecutor, but the Sheriff in his decision ruled that delivery was not restricted to the normal closing hours as laid down by the Shops Act.

Places of Public Entertainment :

These licensed premises such as cinemas, public halls, and dance halls were inspected and the sanitary accommodation found to be clean, suitable, and sufficient with the exception of one dance hall where the sanitary accommodation provided for ladies was found inadequate.

The hall referred to in last year's report as having insufficient sanitary accommodation for ladies has now been provided with additional W.C.s and wash-hand basins.

Billiard Rooms :

The billiard rooms, numbering six in all, were inspected and found to be clean with suitable and sufficient sanitary accommodation provided.

Burgh Police (Scotland) Act, 1892 :

The following action was taken under the undernoted Sections of the above Act:—

Section 115.

Five notices were served upon the occupiers of premises requesting them to arrange for the common W.C.s to be kept clean in weekly rotation.

Section 117.

Two hundred and five visits were paid to property regarding the whitewashing of common closes, stairs, and W.C.s, as a result of which 53 notices and 20 second notices were issued.

Section 164.

Sixteen notices were sent to owners or factors intimating the existence of defective rain water fittings at their properties.

Heating Appliances (Fireguards) Act, 1952 :

The requirements of the above Act and the Regulations made thereunder were kept in view when inspecting shops and similar premises, but no contraventions were observed. The old stocks of heating appliances have been returned to the manufacturers for alteration and on the testing of new and altered appliances it has been found that these comply with the above enactment.

Infectious Diseases :

During the year investigations, reports, disinfections, and fumigations were carried out in connection with the following infectious diseases notifications, viz.:—

Scarlet Fever	37
Tuberculosis Removals	9
Tuberculosis Deaths	3
Croup	2
Acute Poliomyelitis	2
Observation Poliomyelitis	2

The details of work performed by the Sanitary Department in the prevention of the spread of infectious diseases are shown in Appendix II. of this Report.

HOUSING.

The work as reported hereunder was performed under the various Acts relating to housing, viz.:—

HOUSING (INSPECTION OF DISTRICT) REGULATIONS (SCOTLAND) 1928.

1. Number of dwellinghouses inspected:—

(a) During the year	440
(b) Since 1st January 1931 (including (a))	12,801

Note:—In addition, 420 houses were inspected during the year.

2. Number of dwellinghouses which, on inspection, were considered to be in any respect unfit for human habitation:—

(a) During the year	429
(b) Since 1st January 1931	2,212

BURGH POLICE (SCOTLAND) ACT, 1892.

3. Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which notice was given during the year under Section 246 requiring provision of a sufficient W.C. 1

4. Number of dwellinghouses where requirements were complied with by owners during the year Nil.

Note:—At the end of the year the notice as mentioned in item 3 was under consideration.

5. Number of dwellinghouses where work was carried out by the Town Council during the year after failure of the owners to do so Nil.

6. Number of dwellinghouses for which water closets were provided during the year at instance of Town Council without notice under Section 246 25

WATER (SCOTLAND) ACT, 1946.

7. Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which notice was given during the year under Section 54 of the Water (Scotland) Act, 1946, requiring provision of inside water supply and sink Nil.

8. Number of dwellinghouses in which requirements were complied with by owners during the year Nil.

9. Number of dwellinghouses in which work was carried out by the Town Council during the year after failure of owners to do so Nil.

10. Number of dwellinghouses in which inside water supply and sink were provided during the year at instance of Town Council without notice under Section 54.. Nil.

HOUSING (SCOTLAND) ACT, 1950.

The Housing (Scotland) Act, 1950, reproduces in consolidated form without amendment, the law contained in the former Housing (Scotland) Acts, 1925 to 1949, and in certain other enactments relating to housing in Scotland.

11. Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which notices were served during the year under Section 7(1) Nil.

12. Number of dwellinghouses rendered fit for human habitation during the year following on notices under Section 7(1) Nil.

13. Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which work was carried out during the year by the Town Council under Section 8(1) and (2) Nil.

14. Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which in terms of Section 10 a Demolition Order or Closing Order under Section 9(4) has been substituted during the year for a notice under Section 7(1) Nil.

15. Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which notices were served during the year in terms of Section 9(1) 70

16. Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which following on notice under Section 9(1):—
- (a) Undertaking has been given during the year that the house will not be used for human habitation until it has been rendered so fit .. Nil.
 - (b) Undertaking has been given during the year that the house will be rendered fit .. Nil.
 - (c) Demolition Orders have been made during the year under Section 9(4) .. 55
 - (d) Closing Orders have been made during the year under Section 9(4) and 11(1) .. 15
17. Number of dwellinghouses rendered fit during the year following on undertaking under Section 9(2) .. Nil.
18. Number of dwellinghouses rendered fit for human habitation during the year at instance of Town Council .. Nil.
19. Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which Closing Orders have in terms of Section 9(4) been determined by the Town Council during the year following upon houses having been rendered fit for human habitation .. Nil.
20. Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which advances have been made during the year in terms of Section 75 towards cost of repairs and the amount so advanced (50% Grant in each case) .. 22
21. The general character of defects found were:—
- (a) Insufficient sanitary accommodation.
 - (b) Dampness, lack of damp-proof course, lack of or insufficient sub-floor ventilation.
 - (c) No through ventilation, lack of open spaces round buildings, and lack of paving and drainage of areas.
 - (d) Defective roofing, grates, chimneys, plasterwork, floors, windows, and walls.
 - (e) Inadequate natural lighting
 - (f) Lack of/or insufficient washing facilities and cupboard accommodation.
 - (g) Defective and insanitary drainage.

PUBLIC HEALTH (SCOTLAND) ACT, 1897.

Under the Public Health (Scotland) Act, 1897, one hundred and seventy-four intimations were issued in respect of defects existing in dwellinghouses, and of these sixty-three referred to dampness, nine to defective chimneys, nine to defective floors, eight to defective ceilings, forty-one to defective roofs, and forty-four to general defects.

As mentioned in previous reports, it is a fact that this service is of great value to those, still very numerous, who are inadequately housed, and the realisation that this is so, is, of itself, a sufficient reason, if such be needed, for continuing unabated, our efforts in this direction.

Housing (Repairs and Rents) (Scotland) Act, 1954:

This Act, which came into operation on 30th August 1954, makes further provision for the clearance and re-development of areas of unfit housing accommodation and for securing or promoting the reconditioning and maintenance of dwelling-houses. It amends the enactments relating to rent control and provides for increases in the rent of certain houses in respect of which expenditure has been incurred in maintaining and reconditioning these houses.

PART I.

The proposals of the Local Authority specifying the number of unfit houses and how these are to be dealt with, including the

estimated number of new houses required to do so have been submitted to the Department of Health for Scotland.

Statement of Local Authority:—

Total number of permanent dwellings in the area of Local Authority 13,525

1. The estimated number of unfit houses excluding temporary houses (either individual unfit houses suitable for action under Part II. of the 1950 Act or unfit houses which ought to be included in Clearance areas and dealt with under Part III.—classified as follows):—
 - (a) Houses which should be demolished (houses which neither the owner nor the Local Authority can make fit at reasonable expense and which the Local Authority do not consider they should make more habitable under Part I. of the 1954 Act) 1,200
 - (b) Houses which the owners cannot be expected to make fit at an expense reasonable to themselves, but which the Local Authority consider could be acquired and made more habitable or fully fit under Part I. of the 1954 Act (if desirable they could be modernised under Part VII. of the 1950 Act) 80
 - (c) Houses in Clearance areas already belonging to Local Authorities and retained under Section 2 of the Act pending demolition . . . Nil.
 - (d) Houses which owners might be expected to make fit at an expense reasonable to themselves, either because of a notice served under Section 7 of the 1950 Act or because they might wish to qualify for a "Repairs Increase" under Part II. of the 1954 Act . . . 30
2. The estimated number of new houses required in order to facilitate the rehousing of:—
 - (a) Occupants of houses that are to be demolished or closed (as in 1(a) above), and 1,200
 - (b) Any persons whom the Authority will remove because of serious overcrowding from other unfit houses to which works are carried out (houses in categories 1(b), (c), and (d) above 110
3. The number of years which the Local Authority estimate will be necessary to deal with unfit houses under the procedure at 1(a), (b), and (c), above 5-10 years.

PART II.

Statement of programme for the three years:—

4. Number of unfit houses in Clearance areas already covered by operative Clearance or Compulsory Purchase Orders or owned by the Local Authority, which are to be dealt with within the three years, either by demolition or by retention under Section 2 of the Act Nil.
5. Number of unfit houses to be included in Clearance areas, and (so far as not already belonging to the Local Authority) to be dealt with by agreement within the three years sub-divided into:—
 - (a) Houses already covered by resolution under Section 25(1) of the Housing (Scotland) Act, 1950 (including those for which Clearance or Compulsory Purchase Orders have been submitted to the Secretary of State but have not yet been confirmed) Nil.
 - (b) Houses not yet covered Nil.
6. Number of unfit houses in Clearance areas (under 4 and 5) which are to be demolished in the three years Nil.
7. Number of individual unfit houses which are to be the subject of Demolition or Closing Order Procedure in the three years under Section 9 of the Housing (Scotland) Act, 1950 (including houses under existing Demolition or Closing Orders which have not been enforced) 450

8. Number of unfit houses under 4 and 5 to be dealt with in the three years under Section 2 of the Housing (Repairs and Rents) (Scotland) Act, 1954 (houses retained for temporary occupation in Clearance areas) Nil.
9. Number of new houses required during the period in order to facilitate rehousing as a result of action under 6, 7, and 8 above (including houses required for abating serious overcrowding in unfit houses which are to have works carried out on them) 510

PART II.

The following return submitted to the Department of Health for Scotland shows the action taken under Part II. of the Act since it came into operation in August 1954 to 31st December 1955, viz.:—

(1) CERTIFICATES OF DISREPAIR ISSUED UNDER SECTION 18(1) OF THE ACT.

- (a) Dwellinghouses which have been the subject of a notice of repairs increase of rent under Part II. of the 1954 Act:—

APPLICATIONS FOR CERTIFICATES OF DISREPAIR.

Number of Applications for Certificates	31
Number of Certificates granted	28
Number of Certificates refused	2
Number of Certificates withdrawn	1
Number of Certificates under consideration	Nil.

APPLICATIONS FOR REVOCATION OF CERTIFICATES OF DISREPAIR.

Number of Applications for revocation of Certificates	8
Number of Applications granted	*9
Number of Applications refused	Nil.
Number of Applications still under consideration	Nil.

- (b) Dwellinghouses which have not been the subject of a notice of repairs increase of rent under the 1954 Act, but in respect of which permitted increase of rent are recoverable under Section 2(1) (c) and (d) of the Increase of Rent and Mortgage Interest (Restrictions) Act, 1920.

APPLICATIONS FOR CERTIFICATES.

Number of Applications for Certificates	1
Number of Certificates granted	1
Number of Certificates refused	Nil.

APPLICATIONS FOR REVOCATION OF CERTIFICATES.

Number of Applications for revocation of Certificates	Nil.
Number of Applications granted	Nil.
Number of Applications refused	Nil.

* In addition to the eight Certificates of Disrepair revoked following formal application by the owners under Section 18(4) of the Act after the necessary repairs had been executed, a further Certificate was revoked by the Sheriff in a decision issued at Dunfermline Sheriff Court, as the result of an appeal by a landlord under Section 18(6) for the revocation of four Certificates granted in respect of four houses situated within the same building. The Sheriff in a stated case after hearing evidence given by the tenants concerned, the appellants' architect, and the Chief Sanitary Inspector, refused to revoke three of the Certificates but sustained the appeal on the fourth.

In a note to his interlocutor the Sheriff said that in dealing with these appeals he must exclude from consideration all defects of construction to the extent that a defect in the architectural design of a house was not one of disrepair. Where the type of construction or the materials used resulted in a constant and increasing need of repair, then that would appear to be a defect of disrepair. He did not think that the probable cost of repair was material. The Sheriff, in dealing with the house in respect of which

Private Houses Altered :

Improvements to 64 houses involving in the majority of cases the installation of suitable bathroom and sanitary arrangements were carried out during the year.

New Houses under Construction or Contracted for :

Development of the Aberdour Road site continues, while gap sites are being developed at St. Leonard's, Beck Crescent, Baldridgeburn, and Main Street and Dundas Street, Townhill. The Scottish Special Housing Association, Ltd., have under construction 52 houses (comprising 3 and 4-apartments) for general needs.

The position may be summarised as follows:—

Local Authority:

Scheme.	Under Construction.	Not Commenced	Total.
Aberdour Road (Traditional)	4	—	4
(Miller)	20	—	20
(Miller)	279	—	279
Gap Sites—			
St. Leonard's (8 x 1-apartment houses)	8	—	8
Leny Place (4 x 2-apartment houses)	12	—	12
Baldridgeburn (2 x 3-apartment houses)	2	—	2
Main Street, Townhill (2 x 3-apartment houses)	2	—	2
Dundas Street, Townhill (12 x 4-apartment houses) ..	12	—	12
Total	339	—	339

Scottish Special Housing Association, Ltd.:

Scheme.	Under Construction.	Not Commenced.	Total.
Aberdour Road (general purposes)	52	—	52
Total	52	—	52

Number of Houses not yet Contracted for :

Two hundred and eighty-three houses comprising 2, 3, and 4-apartments are to be erected at the Aberdour Road (Fourth Development B), but at the end of the year these houses had not been contracted for.

Notices Requiring Admission :

Eleven notices in terms of Section 159 of the Housing (Scotland) Act, 1950, were served on occupiers who refused admission to an Inspector. These notices had the desired effect, subsequent admission being granted.

Inspections Regarding Cleanliness :

Two hundred and fifty-six inspections were made to 75 houses regarding cleanliness and of these 166 were made to Corporation houses and 90 to privately-owned houses. Resulting from these inspections, 22 written notices and 109 verbal intimations were issued. In order to ascertain if these notices and verbal intimations had been adhered to, it was necessary to re-inspect the houses concerned. Four inspections were carried out at the Hostel Block, Townhill, where conditions were found satisfactory.

Rehousing of Families :

(1) OVERCROWDED.

Two hundred and eighty-two families living overcrowded (including 46 families having a member in ill-health, 32 families living in unfit houses, 10 families having a tubercular member, and 12 families where overcrowding was abated as the result of suitable exchanges being granted) were rehoused during the year, and of these 248 were rehoused into Corporation houses, while 34 mining families living overcrowded were accommodated in the S.S.H.A. Houses for Miners at the Aberdour Road and Woodmill Schemes.

(2) LIVING IN UNFIT HOUSES.

Fifty-four families living in unfit houses (including 32 families living overcrowded as mentioned above) were rehoused, 36 into Corporation houses of over 2-apartments in size, 8 into 2-apartment houses for persons coming under the aged persons group, 5 into 1-apartment houses for single persons, 3 mining families into the S.S.H.A. Houses for Miners in the Aberdour Road Scheme, and 2 into Corporation Old Property.

(3) LIVING IN LODGINGS.

One hundred and nineteen families living in lodgings (including 9 families having a tubercular member) were rehoused, and of these 57 were housed in Corporation temporary houses, 37 into permanent houses, 9 into Corporation old property, and 16 mining families in the S.S.H.A., Ltd., Houses for Miners at the Aberdour Road and Woodmill Schemes.

(4) WITH ILLNESS.

Forty-seven families having a member in ill-health (including 46 families also living overcrowded as mentioned above) were rehoused, and of these 43 were rehoused in Corporation property, while the remaining 4 were rehoused in the S.S.H.A. Ltd., Houses

for Miners at the Aberdour Road, St. Leonard's, and Woodmill Schemes.

(5) TRANSFERS.

Thirty-five transfers were granted during the year, of which 29 were granted to families living in temporary prefabricated houses and the remaining 6 to Corporation tenants already residing in permanent houses. In addition to the above, 62 mining families residing outwith the Burgh were housed in the S.S.H.A., Ltd., Houses for Miners at the Aberdour Road, Woodmill, and St. Leonard's Schemes.

(6) EXCHANGES.

During the year 118 exchanges were granted, 90 of these being granted to Corporation tenants, 18 to tenants of privately owned houses to Corporation houses, and 10 to tenants residing outwith the Burgh. As a result of these exchanges being granted 12 cases of overcrowding were abated.

(7) FAMILIES RECEIVING SPECIAL PRIORITY.

Forty families receiving special priority were also rehoused, and of these 25 were Admiralty Special Priority Applicants, the remaining 15 families consisting of Town Council Special Priority Applicants.

(8) AGED PERSONS GROUP.

Thirty families coming under the Aged Persons Group (including 8 families living in unfit houses) were rehoused in 2-apartment houses in the Aberdour Road Scheme.

(9) HOUSES FOR SINGLE PERSONS.

Eight single persons qualifying for single persons' houses were rehoused in 1-apartment houses erected on gap sites at the St. Leonard's Housing Scheme, and of these 8 families 5 were rehoused from unfit houses.

Housing Applications :

The housing applications of 761 tenants were dealt with during the year, and of these 468 were new applications, while the remaining 293 were for re-assessment on account of changes of circumstances. At the end of the year there were 3,681 applicants for housing accommodation comprising the following group, viz.:—

Tenants known to be living overcrowded	906
Families living as sub-tenants	1,592
Single female persons who qualify for consideration for 1-apartment houses	176
Applicants working in the Burgh with families living outwith the Burgh	343
Aged persons who qualify for consideration for 2-apartment houses, Applications from tenants without points under the present letting scheme	349
Applications from tenants with points but not overcrowded	170
	145

The overcrowded standard is based on the recommendation of D.H.S. Circular No. 149/44 dated 19th October 1944.

Overcrowding :

	Houses.		Persons.
	Apts.	Private.	Local Authority.
A. Number of cases of overcrowding relieved as a result of action taken by the Local Authority and the number of persons concerned from the date of Housing Survey, 1935, to end of 1955.	2,688		14,847
B. (a) Number of houses of each size (i.e., 1-apartment, 2-apartments, etc.) in which overcrowding has been relieved during the same period as a result of action taken by the Local Authority distinguishing between (1) privately-owned houses, and (2) Local Authority houses.	1 459 2 1,317 3 253 4 84	2,113	21 148 404 37
(b) Total number of overcrowded families included in (1) and (2) who have been re-housed in privately-owned houses.		156 (of which 155 came from privately-owned houses and one from a Corporation house).	610
C. Number of known cases in which dwelling-houses in respect of which the Local Authority have relieved overcrowding have again become overcrowded.		113 (of which 100 were privately-owned and 13 were Corporation houses).	
D. Are steps being taken to secure that the re-housing of families living under the worst conditions are provided for first as regards overcrowding or otherwise living under unsatisfactory conditions?	Yes—by means of "Points" Scheme.		
If so, give details of system under which families are selected for occupation of new or vacated Local Authority houses.	1. Number in family and size of house. 2. Sex separation. 3. T.B. or other illness. 4. Structural condition of house. 5. Priority given to disabled ex-Servicemen. 6. Waiting time—1 Point for every 5 years on housing list. 7. Expectant mother receives an additional 2 Points.		
E. Any observations with regard to general position of overcrowding in the Burgh.	At the end of the year there were 266 houses (948 houses based on D.H.S. Circular 149/44) known to be overcrowded by the occupier and his family.		

Of the 948 houses mentioned above twenty-nine refer to overcrowded prefabricated temporary houses.

The following tables show the known cases of overcrowding existing at 31st December 1955, in terms of the Housing (Scotland) Act, 1950:—

Ward.	1 Apt.	2 Apts.	3 Apts.	4 Apts.	5 Apts. and over.	Totals.
1	29	38	12	3	3	85
2	4	35	19	4	—	62
3	17	24	7	—	—	48
4	8	6	15	—	—	29
5	—	3	—	2	1	6
6	—	1	3	6	—	10
7	—	—	8	17	1	26
Totals .. .	58	107	64	32	5	266

	1 Apt.	2 Apts.	3 Apts.	4 Apts.	5 Apts. and over.	Totals.
Dunfermline ..	57	76	16	1	—	150
Rosyth	—	1	7	22	1	31
Townhill.. .. .	—	14	—	—	—	14
Kingseat.. .. .	—	5	—	—	—	5
Corporation.. ..	1	11	41	9	4	66
Totals	58	107	64	32	5	266

Number of houses known to be overcrowded in terms of D.H.S. Circular 149/1944:—

Ward.	1 Apt.	2 Apts.	3 Apts.	4 Apts.	5 Apts. and over.	Totals.
1	68	207	64	5	4	348
2	16	125	31	4	—	176
3	44	116	56	3	—	219
4	7	20	28	5	2	62
5	3	9	11	6	1	30
6	—	—	6	13	1	20
7	—	4	29	25	6	64
Totals	138	481	225	61	14	919

	1 Apt.	2 Apts.	3 Apts.	4 Apts.	5 Apts. and over.	Totals.
Dunfermline ..	130	398	152	13	2	695
Rosyth	—	4	32	37	6	79
Townhill.. .. .	3	49	4	1	—	57
Kingseat.. .. .	2	12	—	—	—	14
Corporation.. ..	3	18	37	10	6	74
Totals	138	481	225	61	14	919

In addition to the 919 houses mentioned above, there were 29 temporary houses overcrowded at the end of the year.

New Houses :

The undernoted table gives the number of houses erected and converted since the coming into operation of the Housing (Scotland) Act, 1919, by (a) Town Council, and (b) Private Enterprise, showing the number of rooms exclusive of scullery and bathroom, viz.:—

	1 Apt.	2 Apts.	3 Apts.	4 Apts.	5 Apts. and over.	Totals.
1919-49	6	204	1,983	2,107	427	4,727
1950	—	—	—	182	24	206
1951	—	—	12	96	16	124
1952	—	—	109	128	27	264
1953	—	16	168	144	16	344
1954	4	28	203	158	66	459
1955	8	39	192	222	20	481
Totals	18	287	2667	3,037	596	6,605

The Town Council is the owner of 3,781 houses, and of these 116 are non-subsidy houses, 200 are 3-apartment temporary (pre-fabricated) houses, and 50 aluminium (permanent) houses, the remainder, namely 3,415, being subsidised under the various Housing Acts. In addition, the Town Council owns 74 old houses which were built prior to the coming into operation of the Housing (Scotland) Act, 1919.

The 562 houses situated at the Woodmill, St. Leonard's, and Aberdour Road Housing Schemes belonging to the Scottish Special Housing Association, Ltd., and exclusively let to miners, together with 8 houses belonging to the Forth Road Bridge Joint Board are factored by the Town Council through the agency of the Housing Manager.

Houses Represented :

Seventy houses were represented in terms of Section 9 (1) of the Housing (Scotland) Act, 1950, and the Town Council ultimately made Demolition Orders in respect of 55 of these houses and Closing Orders in respect of the remaining 15 houses.

Sixteen unfit houses which had already been dealt with by the Town Council under Section 9 (1) of the Housing (Scotland) Act, 1950, were still in use for human habitation at the end of the year. These are:—

Demolition Orders	14
Closing Orders	2

The following tables show the size and situation of the houses dealt with under Section 9 (1) of the Housing (Scotland) Act, 1950.

Ward.	1 Apt.	2 Apts.	3 Apts.	4 Apts.	5 Apts. and over.	Totals.
1	6	24	3	1	1	35
2	—	11	—	—	—	11
3	7	14	2	—	—	23
4	—	—	1	—	—	1
5	—	—	—	—	—	—
6	—	—	—	—	—	—
7	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	13	49	6	1	1	70

	1 Apt.	2 Apts.	3 Apts.	4 Apts.	5 Apts. and over.	Totals.
Dunfermline ..	13	38	6	1	1	59
Townhill	—	11	—	—	—	11
Kingsseat	—	—	—	—	—	—
Rosyth	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pattiesmuir ..	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	13	49	6	1	1	70

Houses Listed :

The undernoted tables show the size and situation of the known unfit houses as at 31st December 1955, viz.:—

Ward.	1 Apt.	2 Apts.	3 Apts.	4 Apts.	5 Apts. and over.	Totals.
1	149	355	104	11	2	621
2	20	74	15	6	2	117
3	66	212	57	21	4	360
4	4	29	2	—	—	35
5	14	22	6	—	—	42
6	—	—	1	—	—	1
7	1	20	3	—	—	24
Totals	254	712	188	38	8	1,200

	1 Apt.	2 Apts.	3 Apts.	4 Apts.	5 Apts. and over.	Totals.
Dunfermline.. ..	247	607	181	38	8	1,091
Townhill.. ..	4	44	—	—	—	38
Kingseat.. ..	2	41	4	—	—	47
Pattiesmuir	1	7	1	—	—	9
Rosyth	—	13	2	—	—	15
Totals	254	712	188	38	8	1,200

Unfit Houses :

Ninety-seven houses were closed either after representation in terms of the Housing (Scotland) Act, 1950, or by arrangement with the owner, as a result of which the position relative to houses actually closed at 31st December 1955 is shown hereunder:—

	1 Apt.	2 Apts.	3 Apts.	4 Apts.	5 Apts. and over.	Totals.
1926-39	213	433	78	31	11	766
1940	2	9	1	—	—	12
1941	—	—	—	—	—	—
1942	—	1	—	—	—	1
1943	—	—	—	—	—	—
1944	—	1	—	—	—	1
1945	—	1	—	—	—	1
1946	3	3	—	2	—	8
1947	1	2	—	—	—	3
1948	5	16	5	—	—	26
1949	6	15	8	1	—	30
1950	—	1	1	2	—	4
1951	16	29	5	3	—	53
1952	11	41	6	1	1	60
1953	21	43	8	5	1	78
1954	8	49	6	1	5	69
1955	17	64	13	2	1	97
Totals	303	708	131	48	19	1,209

FOOD SUPPLY.

Milk :

Number of dairies on register	13
Number of retail purveyors of milk	15
Number of producers and wholesale dealers who do not sell milk by retail	4
Approximate number of cows in registered premises	348
Number of dairies exempted from registration	Nil.
Number of inspections	60

At the latter end of the year the only non-designated producer in the Burgh, on account of ill-health, dispensed with all his cows and closed his dairy with the result that at the end of the year all the producers within the Specified Area of Dunfermline were now designated.

The number of producers' licences in force at the end of the year were as follows:—

Certified	2
Tuberculin Tested	8

As in former years, visits of inspection numbering 60 in all were made to dairies including the actual byres, milk-houses, and sterilising plant, and on occasions the attention of the producers had to be drawn to the following unhygienic conditions, viz.:—

- (1) Dirty condition of the cows and byres.
- (2) Cleansing and limewashing of byres and milk stores.
- (3) Method of cleansing and storing utensils.
- (4) The use of uncovered milk pails.
- (5) Unsatisfactory condition of dungsteads.
- (6) The practice of milkers not wearing overalls.
- (7) Defective condition of premises.

The summer of 1955 was exceptionally warm and dry, but contrary to the expected train of complaints regarding sour milk and milk of poor keeping quality few were actually received, which proves that the general standard of cleanliness was high.

The local Co-operative Society holds a licence to pasteurise and retail milk, and an average of 6,500 gallons from approximately 100 producers, is treated daily. There were 24 visits of inspection made to ascertain the condition of the pasteurising plant, bottling and washing machines, and premises, to ensure that the milk was processed in a clean and hygienic manner, while recording thermometer charts were scrutinised to check on proper pasteurisation. It was necessary on occasions to draw attention to certain unsatisfactory matters relative to the plant, cloakroom, and sanitary accommodation.

The Milk and Dairies (Scotland) Order, 1934 :

It was necessary during the year to draw the attention of certain producers, who send milk by common carrier or deliver milk to the local creamery to the requirements of Article 13 of the above Order. This infraction is long standing, especially with producers outwith the Burgh, but it is hoped that forthcoming legislation will ameliorate the present unsatisfactory position.

The Milk (Special Designations) Act, 1949 :

Since the Burgh became a Specified Area in May 1953, there have been no adverse developments, the tendency being for general upgrading, and attention to the delivery of bulk supplies of milk at manufacturing and catering establishments revealed absolute conformity with the Act.

The Milk (Special Designations) (Scotland) Order, 1951 :

The undernoted licences were in operation at the end of the year, viz.:—

Designation.	Producers.	Dealers.	TYPE OF LICENCE.		Totals.
			Dealers Supple- mentary.	Pasteuriser.	
Certified	2	2	—	—	4
Tuberculin Tested..	8	7	4	—	19
Pasteurised	—	2	—	1	3
Totals	10	11	4	1	26

There were no applications for upgrading during the year, and, as in former years, the local Co-operative Society continued to pasteurise and retail milk.

Two hundred and two samples of designated milk were submitted to the bacteriologist for examination, and of these 24 failed to comply with the requirements of the Order, but, following the taking of subsequent samples, conformable results were obtained. A summary of the above results is included in Appendix 9.

The Public Health (Imported Food) Regulations, 1932 :

The necessary steps were taken to ensure compliance with the above Order and there was no evidence of non-observance.

The Public Health (Condensed Milk) (Scotland) Regulations, 1934-1953 :

Four samples of Condensed Machine Skimmed Milk (Sweetened), one of Condensed Full Cream (Unsweetened) Milk, and

one of Condensed Full Cream (Sweetened) Milk were taken and submitted to the Public Analyst for examination.

The Analyst reported that all the above samples were genuine, while labelling conformed to the Regulations.

The Public Health (Dried Milk) Regulations (Scotland) 1931 :

Two samples of Dried Full Cream Milk and two samples of Dried Half Cream Milk were taken and submitted to the Public Analyst who reported that all were genuine.

Biological Examination of Milk :

Twelve samples of milk comprising two Certified, eight Tuberculin Tested, one Pasteurised, and one Sweet Milk, were taken and submitted to the Bacteriologist for biological examination to ascertain the presence or absence of Tubercle Bacilli and the Bacteriologist reported negative reaction in each case.

Cleanliness of Milk and Other Bottles :

In order to check the efficiency of washing and sterilising plants, 16 bottles comprising 14 milk, 1 lemonade, and 1 beer were taken during the year and submitted to the Bacteriologist for examination. Thirteen bottles were reported satisfactory, while 3 milk bottles were reported unsatisfactory. The question of the unsatisfactory bottles was taken up with the dairymen concerned, and subsequent samples showed that the necessary remedial action had been effected.

The Public Health (Preservatives, etc. in Food) Regulations (Scotland) 1925-27 :

During the year 48 formal samples comprising 28 mince, 14 link sausages, and 6 slicing sausage were taken and submitted for examination in terms of the above Regulations to the Public Analyst who reported that one of the mince samples and one of link sausages failed on account of the presence of excess Sulphur Dioxide. In due course proceedings were instigated against the vendor responsible for selling the mince and being found guilty he was fined £6 (Six Pounds), but due to a technical hitch action was not taken against the other vendor.

Labelling of Food Orders :

The requirements of these Orders were kept in view when

inspecting shops and similar premises, but no contraventions were observed.

Merchandise Marks Act, 1926 :

It was found necessary to serve two written intimations, and to give 12 verbal warnings to shopkeepers and travelling vendors for failure to mark imported foodstuffs with the required indication of origin.

A number of those warnings related to the failure to mark imported meat in terms of The Merchandise Marks (Imported Goods) No. 7 Order, 1934, and Amendment Order, 1936, and to familiarise meat traders with the provisions of the Orders, it was decided to issue a circular to each of them.

Fruit vendors, especially those retailing from vans, had to be reminded of the provisions of the Act in respect of imported tomatoes and apples, and in most cases they were of the opinion that the producers' label on the side of the container, and not always exposed, conformed to the requirements of the Act.

Unsound Food :

During the year 5 tons, 11 cwts., 3 qrs., 23 lbs., $8\frac{3}{4}$ ozs., of Tinned Foodstuffs and 2 tons, 4 cwts., 3 qrs., 21 lbs., 2 ozs., of other foodstuffs were dealt with under Section 43 of the Public Health (Scotland) Act, 1897.

Slaughterhouse :

As in former years, it falls to be reported that the Corporation Slaughterhouse is efficiently supervised by the Superintendent, Mr. Laurence P. Russell, who, despite the handicap of structurally unsuitable premises, manages to perform his arduous task in a proficient manner.

I am indebted to the Superintendent for the undernoted information which shows the number and type of animals slaughtered and condemned during the year.

Stock	Slaughtered	Wholly Con- demned	Partly Con- demned	Meat lbs.	CONDEMNATIONS		
					Offals lbs.	Livers lbs.	Plucks No.
Cattle	4,456	13	7	16,065	11,071	1,053	—
Sheep	5,937	9	—	457	699	—	231
Pigs	1,924	7	—	1,017	93	—	19
Calves	537	2	—	89	83	—	13

It is interesting to note the decline over the past few years of the number of wholly condemned, and partially condemned

bovine carcasses. This can only be accounted for by the fact that the area served by the Slaughterhouse is Specified and I am told by the Superintendent that tuberculosis in the Slaughterhouse is now rare.

A marked improvement has also been observed in the transportation of meat from the Slaughterhouse to butchers' shops as most traders now take delivery of their own meat and do not rely on the sometimes hygienically unconcerned carrier. It has on occasions been necessary to take exception to certain unsatisfactory aspects in the method of transportation such as the lack or insufficiency of proper and hygienic coverings for the meat while in course of transit.

During the year 12 visits of inspection were made to the Slaughterhouse.

Bakehouses :

Fifty-three visits of inspection were made to the 14 bakeries operating within the Burgh and as a result of these inspections 23 verbal and 3 written intimations were issued relative to unsatisfactory conditions existing on these premises.

The unsatisfactory conditions observed included:—

1. Floors requiring to be cleansed.
2. Inadequate or overdue limewashing.
3. General unhygienic conditions in preparation, handling, and storage of bread.
4. The presence of flies and other thermo-resisting insects.
5. Miscellaneous contraventions of the Factories Act, 1937-48.

During the year four main improvements in different bakeries were noted, viz.:—

1. Modernisation of washing-up facilities and drainage.
2. Provision of mobile benches to facilitate the adequate cleansing of floors.
3. Installation of ventilation system.
4. Commencement of major structural renovations by a new occupier.

Generally the bakehouses are fairly well maintained, with occupiers on the whole being hygienically minded, and always open to suggested improvements, where premises and facilities permit.

Premises for the Preparation and Sale of Foodstuffs :

Places of Public Refreshment:

These registered premises such as cafes, tearooms, and restaurants, numbering 26 in all, were regularly inspected during the year involving a total of 91 inspections, as a result of which 7 verbal

and 3 written intimations were issued regarding certain unsatisfactory conditions existing therein. These intimations related to cleanliness of walls, painting and/or limewashing of toilets, and minor unhygienic conditions. These premises, with two exceptions, were well maintained and managed during the year, the two exceptions being old premises where design and structure are somewhat out of date, but even in these two cases consideration is being given by the occupiers to the possibility of effecting the necessary alterations in the near future.

Hotel kitchens and serveries were regularly inspected during the year when conditions were found satisfactory.

Licensed Premises:

These licensed premises, of which there are 28 in the Burgh, were regularly inspected during the year, incurring 42 visits, as a result of which 3 written and 3 verbal intimations were given. During inspections particular attention was given to glass washing and beer pumping equipment. The washing of glasses, especially during busy periods, leaves much to be desired in some premises, but the installation of mechanical washers using suitable detergent rinses are increasing in popularity, although still suspect by a few proprietors.

Aerated Water Works:

These premises were regularly inspected during the year involving 12 visits to 5 premises, and as a result of these inspections 4 verbal intimations were given in respect of unsatisfactory conditions existing therein. Samples of washed bottles were regularly taken to ensure the efficiency of bottle washing plants. In one of these premises a new bottle washing machine was installed to replace a smaller and somewhat obsolete appliance. This new machine reduces the handling of bottles to a minimum and does away with the objectionable practice of removing labels by hand.

There were six complaints in respect of the unhygienic condition or unsoundness of foodstuffs received during the year, viz.:—

- (a) **Foreign Matter** found in a pot of jam purchased from a food shop when, following investigations and analysis of the jam, it was found that the foreign matter was in fact a splinter of wood reed used by coopers while making barrels. The manufacturer concerned was notified, and an assurance was given that more stringent supervision would be exercised during production.
- (b) **Unhygienic Washing of Glasses in Licensed Premises.**—A visit to the premises concerned revealed that a new manager had recently taken over, and

prior to commencement of his duties, lack of staff and laxity on the part of his predecessor gave cause for the complaint. An assurance was given that the complaint would be rectified, and a further visit, several days afterwards, justified this assurance.

- (c) **Glass in a Milk Bottle.**—As a result of a purchaser's complaint a visit to the dairy concerned revealed that due to delay in a consignment of bottles the dairyman was using several chipped bottles which gave rise to the complaint. A severe reprimand resulted in the withdrawal of these bottles and further re-visits proved that the cause for complaint had been removed.
- (d) **Dust from Premises in the Process of Renovation, contaminating Food in Adjoining Shop.**—On visitation, it was found that the demolition of certain stone masonry carried out in the renovation of premises adjoining a food shop gave rise to excessive dust which was intensified by an exceptional period of dry weather. The contractor concerned was forthwith notified and he immediately took the necessary steps to eliminate the cause of complaint by screening and hosing by water of the adjoining area.
- (e) **Bread Containing Foreign Matter.**—A proprietary loaf of bread containing small dark brown particles resembling mouse excreta was brought to the office and on investigation it was found that this particular bakehouse was free from vermin, as a result of which contamination from this source was remote. A further intensive investigation at the premises and an examination of another loaf containing similar particles revealed that one of the grease glands of the dough mixing machine was defective, emitting small particles of grease which, on being subjected to heat, became granulated, resembling that which was at first anticipated. The cause of complaint was removed by the installation of a properly fitting gland.
- (f) **Cooked Stew from School Kitchen.**—The Headmaster of a school complained regarding the unsound condition of cooked beef stew delivered for school meals. On investigation it was found that the beef was frozen, foreign in origin, and due to a prolonged lapse of time between removal from cold storage and cooking, the process of decomposition had begun. The cooking superintendent of the central kitchen concerned was informed and advised to refuse delivery of any doubtful meat.

The Food and Drugs (Adulteration) Act, 1928 :

One hundred and three formal samples were taken during the year and submitted to the Public Analyst for analysis in accordance with the requirements of the above Act. The following table shows the variety of these samples and the result of the analysis:—

No. of Samples Taken.	Nature.	Genuine.	Non-Genuine.
1	Brandy.	1	—
4	Fish Cakes.	4	—
1	Gin.	1	—
17	Ice Cream.	17	—
16	Milk.	16	—
28	Mince.	27	1
1	Rum.	1	—
14	Sausages (Links).	13	1
8	Sausages (Slicing).	8	—
13	Whisky.	13	—
<u>103</u>		<u>101</u>	<u>2</u>

While it was not possible to deal with one of the cases, it was decided to institute proceedings in the case of one of the non-genuine samples as mentioned under Public Health (Preservatives, Etc., in Food) Regulations (Scotland), 1925-27.

One hundred and thirty-four informal or test samples were taken and submitted to the Public Analyst. The following table shows the variety of these samples and the results of analysis:—

No. of Samples Taken.	Nature.	Genuine.	Non-Genuine.
9	Aerated Waters.	9	—
2	Aspirin.	2	—
2	Bacon.	2	—
1	Bronchial Emulsion.	1	—
7	Butter.	7	—
1	Cascara Sagrada.	1	—
1	Castor Oil.	1	—
1	Caviar.	1	—
1	Cocoa.	1	—
1	Cod Liver Oil.	1	—
1	Coffee.	1	—
3	Coffee and Chicory.	3	—
5	Condensed Milk.	5	—
1	Crab Meat.	1	—
3	Cream.	3	—
2	Cream of Tartar.	2	—
1	Creamed Mushroom.	1	—
1	Dates.	1	—
4	Dried Milk.	4	—
1	Dried Mint.	1	—
1	Dripping.	1	—
3	Fish Cakes.	3	—
4	Fish Paste.	4	—
1	French Capers.	1	—
1	Fruit Chutney.	1	—
2	Gelatine.	2	—
2	Honey.	2	—
4	Jam.	4	—
6	Jelly.	6	—
8	Margarine.	8	—
2	Marmalade.	2	—
4	Meat Paste.	4	—
17	Milk.	17	—
2	Mustard.	2	—
1	Olive Oil.	1	—
3	Pepper.	3	—
1	Pickles.	1	—
1	Pressed Ham.	1	—
1	Rice.	1	—
3	Saccharin.	3	—
2	Salad Cream.	2	—
1	Sardines.	1	—
2	Sausages.	2	—
3	Sauce.	3	—
2	Shredded Beef Suet.	2	—
125	Carry forward	125	

No. of Samples Taken.	Nature.	Genuine.	Non-Genuine.
125	Brought forward	125	
1	Soup.	1	—
1	Sugar.	1	—
1	Syrup.	1	—
1	Tomato Paste.	1	—
1	Tongue.	1	—
1	Truffle.	1	—
3	Vinegar.	3	—
<hr/> 134 <hr/>		<hr/> 134 <hr/>	

The foregoing list includes samples taken under the following Orders:—

The Food Standards (Soft Drinks) (Amendment) Order, 1954 :

Nine test samples were taken and all were reported genuine.

The Food Standards (Suet) Order, 1952 :

Two test samples were taken and both were reported genuine.

The Food Standards (Liquid Coffee Essences) Order, 1954 :

Four test samples were taken and all were reported genuine.

The Food Standards (Cream) Order, 1951 :

Three test samples were taken and all were reported genuine.

The Food Standards (Fish Cakes) Order, 1951 :

Three test samples were taken and all were reported genuine.

The Food Standards (Fish Paste) (Amendment) Order, 1951 :

Four test samples were taken and all were reported genuine.

The Food Standards (Preserves) Order, 1953 :

Twelve test samples were taken and all were reported genuine.

The Food Standards (Margarine) Order, 1954 :

Eight test samples were taken and all were reported genuine.

The Food Standards (Meat Paste) (Amendment) Order, 1951 :

Four test samples were taken and all were reported genuine.

The Food Standards (Mustard) (Amendment No. 2) Order, 1948 :

Two test samples were taken and both were reported genuine.

The Food Standards (Saccharin Tablets) Order, 1953 :

Three test samples were taken and all were reported genuine.

The Food Standards (Salad Cream and Mayonnaise) Order, 1945 :

Two test samples were taken and both were reported genuine.

Bacteria per Gram.	Less than 1,000	1,000 to 5,000	5,000 to 10,000	10,000 to 50,000	50,000 to 100,000	100,000 to 200,000	Over 200,000
Number of Samples ..	31	21	6	9	2	—	10

METHYLENE BLUE TEST:

Grade	I.	II.	III.	IV.
Number of Samples	28	14	10	27

The unsatisfactory samples were followed up by inspections and further sampling. In most cases it was found that due to carelessness on the part of owner or staff, proper sterilisation of equipment had not been carried out. In two cases where constant bad samples were obtained the respective owners reverted to "cold mix," after which a great improvement in bacterial count was noted.

Chemical :

Seventeen formal samples were taken and submitted for chemical analysis and all were reported to conform to the requirements of the Food Standards (Ice Cream) Order, 1953.

The fat content of these samples ranged from 5.08 to 7.93, the average of the 17 samples being 6.75%, which the average non-fatty solids was 9.57% and sugar 12.63%.

Less % Fat. than 1	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-6	6-7	7-8	8-9	9-10	Over 10
Number of Samples, —	—	—	—	—	5	7	5	—	—	—

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

During the year, it was the aim, as formerly, of the Cleansing Department to perform its usual, albeit, varied duties and that such was done with acceptance is obvious by the fact that only eight complaints were lodged, four concerning cleansing, three litter, and one to frosty conditions on the street.

It has been obvious that the Department has been operating under very adverse conditions for many years now at the Central Depot, Market Street, and it is therefore a matter of some moment that within the next year the new Cleansing Centre in Elgin Street, a well-designed and commodious arrangement of buildings, will be available for occupation, wherein there will be adequate space for the proper and smooth functioning of the whole Department.

There is still difficulty in recruiting a sufficiency of labour, particularly for the more arduous sections of the work and even the

prospect of regular employment, along with superannuation and sick payment benefits, are not now sufficient inducement to attract personnel to this service.

Street Cleansing :

There will be more or less general agreement on the need to maintain a street cleansing service in any Burgh, both from the health and the amenity aspects, in view of which the existing arrangements were maintained during 1955, namely the augmentation where possible, by the use of a mechanical sweeper, to assist the efforts of the various Street Orderlies, and 875 tons of material were so removed from the streets and pavements of the Burgh.

It was mentioned last year that Litter Bins were being provided in most parts of the city and now that this scheme is completed it is suggested that some improvement has resulted, but unfortunately far too few of our inhabitants are inclined to use these facilities, in view of which there is still an undue excess of littering.

The old Gully Emptier acquired in 1938 was withdrawn from service and replaced by a modern S.D. Gully and Cesspit Emptier. There were 3,253 gullies emptied during the year and 202 tons of sludge and grit removed from these gullies.

The cost of removing snow, of which 3,968 tons were uplifted, amounted to £4,138, 4s. 6d., inclusive of salt, external haulage, and labour.

Refuse Collection :

There was no change in the refuse collection arrangements within the Burgh and during the period under review 10,223 tons of domestic refuse were collected, making a daily yield of 28 tons.

A new 5-ton Austin Tipping Lorry was acquired and put into operation to replace a similar vehicle which had become obsolete and defective.

It is a pleasure to record at this stage that the repair section operated by the Cleansing Department functioned efficiently and to the satisfaction of the customer Departments of the Corporation. Apropos the reference already made to the new Cleansing Centre, it is a matter for congratulation that this repair section in particular will be much more adequately housed and equipped to perform its many services to the various Corporation Departments.

Refuse Disposal :

The position relative to the disposal facilities operated by the Department remained unchanged, although tipping was actually concentrated mainly on three coups, namely Muircockhall, Halbeath, and Rosyth, at all three of which the usual manual operations were considerably and beneficially assisted by the Traxcavator.

The amount of refuse disposed of and the quantity of boiler ashes and soil used for top dressing on the coups in use during the year ending 15th May 1955 are shown in the table hereunder, viz:—

Coups.	House Refuse. Tons.	Sweep- ings. Tons.	Shop Refuse. Tons.	Man- ure. Tons.	Other Refuse. Tons.	Gullies. Tons.	Boiler Ashes. Tons.	Soil Tons.	Snow. Tons.	Total Tons.
Brucehaven	1,675	72	16	—	108	—	582	1,540	—	3,993
Buffie's Brae.. .. .	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	800	800
Crossford.. .. .	489	—	—	—	9	—	139	—	—	637
Halbeath.. .. .	1,175	17	14	—	52	166	224	—	—	1,648
Muircockhall.. .. .	3,158	600	320	750	1,051	13	1,217	2,463	131	9,703
Pattiesmuir	—	—	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	4
Rosyth.. .. .	3,726	185	43	2	161	23	843	3,471	89	8,544
Total	10,223	875	393	752	1,385	202	3,005	7,474	1,020	25,329

Salvage :

As formerly, the Department continued to operate a salvage scheme, as a result of which 1,236½ tons of material were collected, and, when sold, realised the sum of £8,053, 15s. 7d.

The undernoted tables show the amount of materials collected under this scheme, viz:—

SUMMARY OF SALVAGE COLLECTED IN THE BURGH AND RECEIPTS RECEIVED DURING THE YEAR 1955.

Material.	T.	C.	Q.	£	s.	d.
Destructor Scrap	61	8	2	347	13	5
Glass	38	7	0	55	12	0
Kitchen Waste	344	1	3	1,333	9	0
Metals (Black Scrap)	32	7	3	109	12	10
Metals (Non-Ferrous)		11	2	20	10	6
Miscellaneous.. .. .	0	0	0	6	10	6
Paper	751	15	0	6,087	12	7
Textiles	7	19	1	92	14	9

Total Weights	1,236 tons 10 cwt. 3 qrs.
Gross Receipts	£8,053 15 7
Nett Receipts	2,290 1 10
Yield per 1000 population per annum	178 19 5
Yield per 1000 population per month	14 18 3
Yield per person per annum	0 3 6½

**SUMMARY OF SALVAGE COLLECTED IN THE BURGH AND RECEIPTS
RECEIVED FROM INCEPTION OF SALVAGE SCHEME IN NOVEMBER 1939
TO 31st DECEMBER 1955.**

Material.	T.	C.	Q.	£	s.	d.
Batteries	80	5	0	42	9	0
Bottles (28,708 doz.)	82	0	3	743	4	8
Bones	123	6	1	373	3	6
Destructor Scrap.. .. .	1,816	13	2	4,477	17	10
Footwear	6	1	2	40	9	6
Glass	1,088	2	2	1,146	7	1
Kitchen Waste	8,681	14	2	19,662	8	2
Metals (Black Scrap)	848	11	1	1,919	13	6
Metals (Non-Ferrous).. .. .	40	17	3	840	16	9
Miscellaneous.. .. .	133	3	3	215	12	9
Paper	8,087	13	1	54,203	5	7
Rubber	46	19	2	92	13	1
Straw	47	8	3	162	9	7
Textiles.. .. .	243	5	2	2,314	10	1

Total Weight	21,326 tons 3 cwt. 3 qrs.
Gross Receipts	£86,235 1 1
Nett Receipts	34,699 7 0
Yield per 1000 population	1,916 6 8
Yield per 1000 population	9 17 6
Yield per person	1 18 2

County Salvage :

The sum of £168, 7s. was paid to the County Authorities in respect of the handling, sorting, and disposal of 36 tons 6½ cwt. of waste material.

Service Authorities :

The sum of £1, 13s. 9d. was paid to the Service Authorities for a similar service concerning 13½ cwt. of Destructor Scrap.

Public Conveniences :

During the year the new convenience, comprising both male and female sections, recently erected in Main Street, Townhill, was opened and has already proved an asset to this area, while an improvement on the amenity of Garden Place was effected by the demolition of the former convenience, which was for a fairly lengthy period both an inadequate and unsightly structure.

The various conveniences and the centrally placed Toilet Rooms were all cleansed and supervised in the usual manner, but it is with regret that reference has once again to be made to the extensive vandalism which still persists, the only result of which, unfortunately, is the curtailment of much desired facilities and the incurring of unnecessary public expense in order to repair the damage so caused.

The cost of repairs and supplies was £1,330, 4s. 1d. and the cost of supervision £5,049, 7s. 1d., while the income amounted to £1,506, 19s. 9d.

Costs :

The hours of labour and the cost of wages for the various duties undertaken by the Cleansing Department during the year ended 15th May 1955 are shown in the following table, in which figures for the previous year are included for comparison, viz.:—

Class of Work.	15th May 1955.			15th May 1954.		
	Hours.	Wages.		Hours.	Wages.	
Refuse Collection	30,728½	£4,975	12 2	28,932½	£4,272	9 0
Refuse Disposal	32,948½	5,702	12 4	28,658½	4,267	11 6
Street Sweepings.. .. .	80,591¾	12,062	4 9	86,429	12,274	1 7
Salvage	22,394¼	3,604	15 3	23,101	3,423	18 3
Cleansing and Maintenance of Freighters and Depots	4,199	773	15 1	4,342½	742	2 11
Public Conveniences	33,888½	4,566	11 10	32,552¼	4,019	19 3
Vehicles Disinfected (Diseases of Animals Act)	480¼	70	17 9	507	69	19 3
Removal Slaughterhouse Offal and Manure	1,053	197	14 4	976½	165	19 1
Trade Refuse (Collection and Disposal)	1,224¼	204	3 1	1,110½	168	12 9
Snow Clearing	9,960½	1,683	18 7	1,881¾	290	16 9
Gritting.. .. .	654	110	15 0	662	101	2 9
*Other Payments	—	3,005	19 10	—	3,105	14 7
	218,123	£36,959	0 0	209,154	£32,902	7 8

*Other Payments include Administration, Holiday Pay, Annual Holidays, Sick Pay, etc.

The gross cost of operating the Cleansing Service during the financial year 1954/55 was £64,748, 1s. 3d., and the revenue was £13,820, 11s. 11d., the nett cost being £50,927, 9s. 4d.

The following statistics were obtained from the above costs and the tonnage shown under refuse disposal, viz.:—

Total quantity of house and trade refuse	12,001 tons.
Weight per head of population	5.31 cwts.
Daily yield per 1000 population	14.613 cwts.
Yearly yield per 1000 population	266.688 tons.
Nett cost of collection of 1 ton of house and trade refuse ..	25s. 2.45d.
Nett cost of disposal of 1 ton of house and trade refuse ..	11s. 11.52d.
Nett cost of collection and disposal per ton	37s. 1.97d.
Nett cost per person per year for cleansing services	22s. 6.4d.
Nett cost per person per day for cleansing services	0s. 0.74d.

Acknowledgment :

Once again I have to acknowledge with thanks the support afforded to me by the members of the Town Council, in particular the members of the Health and Cleansing Committees, and also the

co-operation extended by the other Corporation officials. It is also a pleasure to place on record the willing services of the staff and employees.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

ALEXR. H. DUNCAN,
Chief Sanitary Inspector and
Inspector of Cleansing.

Appendix 1.

Nuisances and General Inspections.

Number of complaints received (of which 6 were unjustified)	556
Number of written intimations issued	137
Number of verbal intimations issued	176
Number of second notices issued	34
Number of inspections, Section 115, Burgh Police (Scotland) Act, 1892	7
Number of notices issued under Section 115, Burgh Police (Scotland) Act, 1892	5
Number of inspections, Section 117, Burgh Police (Scotland) Act, 1892	205
Number of notices issued under Section 117, Burgh Police (Scotland) Act, 1892	53
Number of notices issued under Section 119, Burgh Police (Scotland) Act, 1892	22
Number of notices issued under Section 381 (36), Burgh Police (Scotland) Act, 1892,	2
Houses let in lodgings inspections	17
Number of written intimations issued	Nil.
Number of verbal intimations issued	3
Common Lodging House inspections	35
Number of written intimations issued	Nil.
Number of verbal intimations issued	5
Rag Flock inspections	2
Bakery inspections	53
Number of written intimations issued	3
Number of verbal intimations issued	23
Factories Act, 1937-48, inspections	106
Number of written intimations issued	12
Number of verbal intimations issued	22
Places for Public Refreshment inspections	60
Number of written intimations issued	2
Number of verbal intimations issued	4
Places of Public Entertainment inspections	19
Number of written intimations issued	Nil.
Premises used for the preparation of food inspections	63
Number of written intimations issued	2
Number of verbal intimations issued	4
Premises used for the manufacture and for the retail of ice-cream inspections	58
Number of written intimations issued	5
Number of verbal intimations issued	10
Licensed premises inspections	42
Number of written intimations issued	3
Number of verbal intimations issued	1
Merchandise Marks Act inspections	18
Number of written intimations issued	2
Number of verbal intimations issued	17
Shops Act inspections	119
Number of written intimations issued	21
Number of verbal intimations issued	8
Tents, Vans, and Sheds inspections	16
Number of written intimations issued	4
Number of verbal intimations issued	6
Cattle Market inspections	12
Rivers Pollution inspections	5
Number of written intimations issued	1
Number of verbal intimations issued	1
Pet Animals Act inspections	10
Creamery inspections	24
Dairy inspections	59
Piggery inspections	5
Slaughterhouse inspections	12
Smoke Observations	28
Number of written intimations issued	6
Number of verbal intimations issued	13
Colour testing drainage	203
Smoke testing drainage	387

Appendix 2.

Infectious Diseases.

Number of visits to places where infectious disease occurred	55
Apartments disinfected	70
Articles disinfected (estimate).. . . .	3,140
Articles destroyed after death of phthisical patients	Nil.
Notices issued under Sections 50, 53. and 57 of the Public Health (Scotland) Act, 1897	66
Supplies of disinfectant issued	424
Notices issued to H.M. Dockyard, etc.	8
Sets of bedding replaced	Nil.

Appendix 3.

New Houses Let.

Scheme	CC.	H. OC.	TB. OC.	UF. OC.	C/O.	TB. C/O.	TB.	H.	UF.	TRAN.	EX.	PRI.	A.G.	S.P.	TRAN. OB.	Totals.
Aberdour Road	125	31	6	15	14	1	1	—	9	23	—	25	25	—	—	275
Aberdour Road (Miners)	30	1	—	1	18	—	1	1	1	7	—	—	—	—	50	110
Camdean	5	2	—	—	9	—	—	—	—	2	—	3	—	—	—	21
Kingseat Gap Sites	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
St Leonard's Gap Sites	4	—	2	1	—	—	—	—	4	1	—	1	—	4	—	17
Totals	165	34	8	17	41	1	3	1	14	33	—	29	25	4	50	425

Scheme.	1-Apt.	2-Apts.	3-Apts.	4-Apts.	5-Apts.	6-Apts.	Totals.
Aberdour Road	—	39	128	108	—	—	275
Aberdour Road (Miners),	—	—	40	70	—	—	110
Camdean	—	—	10	11	—	—	21
Kingscat (Gap Site)	—	—	2	—	—	—	2
St Leonard's (Gap Sites),	8	—	2	7	—	—	17
Totals	8	39	182	196	—	—	425

Month.	1-Apt.	2-Apts.	3-Apts.	4-Apts.	5-Apts.	6-Apts.	Totals.
January	—	—	31	24	—	—	55
February	—	—	16	38	—	—	54
March	—	—	15	19	—	—	34
April	—	—	14	2	—	—	16
May	—	—	8	4	—	—	12
June	4	—	4	10	—	—	18
July	—	—	14	8	—	—	22
August	4	—	12	26	—	—	42
September	—	8	24	9	—	—	41
October	—	8	17	28	—	—	53
November	—	12	17	13	—	—	42
December	—	11	10	15	—	—	36
Total	8	39	182	196	—	—	425

Included above are 48 houses of 3-apartments and 62 houses of 4-apartments built by the S.S.H.A., Ltd., at the Aberdour Road (Fourth Development) Housing Scheme.

Appendix 4.

Housing Inspections.

(a) General.

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April.	May.	June.	July.	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Totals.
Inspections	20	57	55	52	26	12	18	22	42	41	53	42	440
Re-Inspections	26	90	18	25	43	18	12	16	25	30	94	23	420
Totals	46	147	73	77	69	30	30	38	67	71	147	65	860

(b) Inspections Regarding Cleanliness.

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April.	May.	June.	July.	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Totals.
Corporation owned ..	7	26	10	9	21	6	24	11	16	14	14	8	166
Privately owned	8	8	6	10	7	3	10	6	9	10	7	6	90
Totals	15	34	16	19	28	9	34	17	25	24	21	14	256

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April.	May.	June.	July.	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Totals.
Written notices issued,	—	10	1	2	1	2	2	—	2	1	1	—	22
Verbal warnings given,	7	11	6	7	14	4	15	7	10	11	10	6	108
Notices under Section 159 requiring admission.	1	4	—	1	—	—	—	—	2	1	—	—	11

Number of Houses 76

Number of Written Notices 22

Number of Verbal Warnings 108

Number of Families Re-housed and Reasons for Re-housing.

Scheme.	OC.	H. OC.	TB. OC.	UF. OC.	C/O.	TB. C/O.	TB.	H.	F. UP.	TRAN.	EX.	PRI.	AP.	TRAN. OB.	Totals.
Aberdour Road ..	129	33	6	14	16	2	1	—	10	26	30	29	27	—	323
Aberdour Road (Miners)	30	1	—	2	14	1	1	1	1	2	—	—	—	57	110
Balbridgeburn... ..	—	—	—	—	11	—	—	—	2	—	6	—	—	—	19
Bellyeoman	—	4	—	7	3	—	—	—	1	—	26	—	—	—	41
Brucefield	2	1	—	1	9	—	—	—	—	1	8	6	—	—	28
Burnside	1	1	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	5	—	—	—	9
Camdean	6	—	—	1	14	—	—	—	—	2	6	3	—	—	32
Chamberfield	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	3
Headwell	3	1	1	1	1	1	—	—	1	—	12	—	—	—	21
Kingseat	1	—	—	—	15	2	1	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	21
Milton Green	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Parkneuk	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Park Road (West), St Leonard's	—	—	—	—	5	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6
Townhill	4	1	3	—	—	—	—	—	5	3	8	1	3	3	31
Old Property	3	1	—	1	8	2	—	—	1	—	7	—	—	—	19
Woodmill Miners.	1	1	—	—	9	—	—	—	1	1	1	1	—	—	18
Whirlbut	1	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	5
Rosyth Halt... ..	1	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
Rumblingwell	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	—	—	—	8
															1
Totals	182	46	10	32	110	9	3	1	22	35	118	40	30	61	699

	OC.	H. OC.	TB. OC.	UF. OC.	C/O.	TB. C/O.	TB.	H.	F. UP.	TRAN.	EX.	PRI.	AP.	TRAN. OB.	Totals.
January-June ..	64	13	5	9	65	4	1	1	10	17	65	13	—	58	331
July-December ..	118	33	5	23	45	5	2	—	12	18	53	27	30	3	368
Totals	182	46	10	32	110	9	3	1	22	35	118	40	30	61	699

The 40 Priority Applicants mentioned above include 25 Admiralty Special Priority Applicants.

Appendix 5 (Continued).

Number of Persons and Units Re-housed into New Houses.

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April.	May.	June.	July.	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Totals.
Adults	133	139	82	36	29	41	59	103	93	140	99	82	1036
Children	73	62	60	17	18	24	18	59	47	55	48	36	517
Total	206	201	142	53	47	65	77	162	140	195	147	118	1553
Units	169½	170	112	44½	38	53	68	132½	116½	167½	123	100	1294½

Number of Persons and Units Re-housed.

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April.	May.	June.	July.	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Totals.
Adults	161	186	139	119	124	75	94	149	130	222	175	126	1700
Children	84	90	105	49	63	34	40	90	61	109	90	66	881
Total	245	276	244	168	187	109	134	239	191	331	265	192	2581
Units.. .. .	203	231	192½	143½	155½	92	114	194	160½	276½	220	159	2241½

Key:

OC.—Overcrowded.
 UF.—Unfit.
 C/O.—Sub-tenant (living in lodgings).
 TB.—Tuberculosis (all kinds).
 AP.—Aged Persons.

H.—Health.

TRAN.—Transfer.

EX.—Exchange.

PRI.—Priority.

OB.—Outwith Burgh.

Persons under 10 years reckoned as child—½ unit.

Persons over 10 years reckoned as adult—1 unit.

Appendix 6.

Houses Closed 1955.

Ward.	1-Apt.	2-Apts.	3-Apts.	4-Apts.	5-Apts. and over.	Total.
1	7	35	8	1	1	52
2	—	5	—	—	—	5
3	8	23	3	1	—	35
4	2	1	2	—	—	5
5	—	—	—	—	—	—
6	—	—	—	—	—	—
7	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals .. .	17	64	13	2	1	97

	1-Apt.	2-Apts.	3-Apts.	4-Apts.	5-Apts. and over.	Total.
Dunfermline.. .	17	58	13	2	1	91
Townhill.. .	—	3	—	—	—	3
Kingseat.. .	—	3	—	—	—	3
Pattiesmuir ..	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals .. .	17	64	13	2	1	97

Appendix 7.

Houses Represented.

	1-Apt.	2-Apts.	3-Apts.	4-Apts.	5-Apts. and over	Total.
1950-51 .. .	11	42	7	2	1	63
1952 .. .	2	3	2	—	—	7
1953 .. .	14	29	3	—	1	47
1954 .. .	8	11	7	—	—	26
1955 .. .	13	49	6	1	1	70

Appendix 8.

Houses Inhabited.

Locus.	Private.	Corporation.	Admiralty.	S.N.H.C.	S.S.H.A.	Total.
Dunfermline .. .	5,761	2,968	372	—	562	9,663
Rosyth .. .	86	494	832	1,872	—	3,284
Townhill.. .	254	281	—	—	—	535
Kingseat .. .	115	35	—	—	—	150
Pattiesmuir.. .	15	—	—	—	—	15
Seggsburn .. .	14	—	—	—	—	14
Landward .. .	79	—	—	—	—	79
Totals.. .	6,324	3,778	1,204	1,872	562	13,740

Key: S.N.H.C.—Scottish National Housing Company.

S.S.H.A.—Scottish Special Housing Association, Ltd.

Corporation Houses—Only refer to houses built by Local Authority under the Housing (Scotland) Act, 1919, and subsequent Housing Acts.

Appendix 9.

Milk (Special Designations) (Scotland) Order, 1951.

No. of Samples Taken.	Designation.	Conform.	Non-Conform.
15	Certified.	13	2
104	Tuberculin Tested.	85	19
83	Pasteurised.	80	3
<u>202</u>		<u>178</u>	<u>24</u>

The following table shows the counts upon which these samples failed:—

Designation.	Presence of B. Coli.	Bacterial Count.	Bacterial Count and Presence of B.Coli.	Phosphatase Test.	Total.
Certified	1	1	—	—	2
Tuberculin Tested..	7	4	8	—	19
Pasteurised.. . . .	1	—	—	2	3
Total	9	5	8	2	24

Appendix 10.

Unsound Food.

The undernoted list of foodstuffs was dealt with under Section 43 of the Public Health (Scotland) Act, 1897:—

TINNED FOODSTUFFS.	Tons.	Cwts.	Qrs.	Lbs.	Ozs.
Apples	—	—	—	8	—
Apricots	—	—	—	12	5
Beans	—	1	1	27	10
Bectroot	—	—	—	3	—
Boars' Heads	—	—	—	—	8
Braised Beef	—	—	—	—	8
Braised Kidneys	—	—	—	—	12
Brisket Beef	—	1	3	12	—
Carrots	—	—	—	4	11½
Cherries	—	—	—	8	12
Chicken	—	—	—	21	8
Chopped Pork	—	—	3	12	3
Condensed Milk	—	—	—	25	12
Corned Beef	—	15	1	27	14
Corned Mutton	—	2	2	—	6
Cream	—	—	—	9	9½
Creamed Rice	—	—	3	4	12
Evaporated Milk	—	1	—	8	8½
Fruit Salad	—	—	—	6	14
Gammon	—	2	3	5	11
Grape Fruit	—	—	—	18	15
Grape Fruit Juice	—	—	—	1	3
Ham	1	7	1	3	13
Herring	—	—	—	—	14
Irish Stew	—	—	—	4	—
Jellied Veal	—	3	3	19	—
Liquid Whole Egg	—	—	1	—	—
Carry forward	2	19	1	25	1½

Appendix 10 (Continued).

	Tons.	Cwts.	Qrs.	Lbs.	Ozs.
Brought forward	2	19	1	25	1½
Luncheon Meat	1	6	1	1	9
Meat Paste	—	—	—	13	4
Mince and Peas	—	—	—	14	6
Minced Beef Loaf	—	1	—	9	6
Minced Pork Roll	—	—	1	—	—
Mixed Vegetables	—	—	—	11	12½
Normeat	—	—	—	2	—
Norwegian Sild	—	—	—	2	9¼
Oranges	—	—	—	23	6
Orange Juice	—	—	—	3	—
Ox Tongue	—	5	3	15	6
Peaches	—	—	1	24	13
Pears	—	1	2	12	6
Peas	—	4	—	14	1
Pilchards	—	—	—	16	—
Pineapple	—	1	1	9	12
Pineapple Juice	—	—	—	3	12
Plums	—	18	3	16	18
Polish Shoulders	—	1	—	8	12
Pork Tongues	—	—	—	18	—
Pressed Beef	—	—	2	25	11
Pressed Veal	—	—	—	17	4
Prunes	—	—	3	21	3
Raspberries	—	—	—	1	3
Rhubarb	—	—	—	1	3
Salmon	—	—	—	11	11
Sardines	—	—	—	—	4½
Sausages	—	—	—	14	—
Soups	—	2	3	24	13½
Spaghetti	—	—	—	13	6
Steak and Kidney Pie	—	—	—	1	—
Stewed Steak	—	1	1	21	8
Strawberries	—	—	—	7	11
Sweet Corn	—	—	—	—	12
Syrup	—	—	—	5	—
Tomatoes	—	1	2	7	2½
Tomato Juice	—	—	—	10	5
Tomato Puree	—	—	—	—	11
Tripe and Onions	—	—	—	1	14
Tuna Fish	—	—	—	—	8
Veal	—	—	3	10	—
	6	10	2	23	8¼

OTHER FOODSTUFFS.

	Tons.	Cwts.	Qrs.	Lbs.	Ozs.
Biscuits	—	9	—	23	—
Cheese	—	—	—	3	—
Confectionery	1	1	3	13	2
Fish	—	2	—	—	—
Potatoes	—	11	2	8	—
Prunes	—	—	1	2	—
	2	4	3	21	2

Appendix 11.

Summary of Costs of Services Undertaken by Cleansing Department 1954-55.

POPULATION (ESTIMATED) 45,200.

Service. (1)	Interest and Sinking Fund. (2)	Other Expenditure. (3)		Total Gross Expenditure. (4)		Revenue. (5)		Nett Cost. (6)		Nett cost per head of population. 1954-55. (7)				1953-54. (8)			
		£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.	s.	d.	s.	d.	s.	d.	s.	d.
(a) Street Cleansing, including watering, washing, gully cleansing, disposal of street sweepings, gritting, and snow removal ..	0 0 0	22,090	10 2	22,090	10 2	168	0 8	21,922	9 6	9	8.4			7	3.11		
(b) Refuse Collection, i.e., house, trade, garden, shop, and miscellaneous refuse	315 0 0	15,662	6 5	15,977	6 5	853	4 9	15,124	1 8	6	8.3			6	8.95		
(c) Refuse Disposal, i.e., house, trade, garden, shop, and miscellaneous refuse	0 0 0	7,509	8 11	7,509	8 11	332	11 0	7,176	17 11	3	2.1			2	3.63		
(d) Public Conveniences,	333 0 0	8,507	1 0	8,840	1 0	1,692	5 10	7,147	15 2	3	1.95			2	1.61		
(e) Other Services	0 0 0	3,312	8 3	3,312	8 3	3,633	1 6	-320	13 3	-0	1.7			-0	1.67		
(f) Salvage	0 0 0	7,018	6 6	7,018	6 6	7,141	8 2	-123	1 8	-0	0.65			0	2.94		
	£648 0 0	£64,100	1 3	£65,748	1 3	£13,820	11 11	£50,927	9 4	22	6.40			-18	1.29		

Nett yield of 1d. rate (1954-55) was £1,781, and cleansing costs therefore represent approximately a 2s. 5d. rate.

SOCIAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT

REPORT

BY

G. K. PLUMMER, Social Services Officer

ANNUAL REPORT

PROVISION OF WELFARE SERVICES under Section 29 of the National Assistance Act.

(a) Blind Persons.

No major alterations fall to be reported on with regard to the agency arrangement between the Town Council and the Fife Society for the Blind except that, at the close of the year, discussions had opened on the question of the provision of welfare services for partially-sighted persons. The Fife Society had also intimated that they would like consideration to be given to an increase in the present *per capita* grant of £5 per annum. No decision had been taken by the end of the year.

Three hundred visits were made in Dunfermline by Mr. Reid, the local Home Teacher, and arrangements were made for the examination of 11 persons. Of these persons 6 were certified as being blind within the meaning of the Blind Persons Acts and 5 as not blind.

One of the main problems has been endeavouring to find suitable alternative accommodation for the handicrafts class and social club meetings at present held in a room in St. Margaret's Hall. One building was examined but proved unsuitable. At the end of the year, however, there were good prospects of other premises being obtained.

Mr. Reid keeps in regular touch with the Social Services Department, and reports any special problems which arise in connection with blind persons in the area.

The Fife Society is assisted greatly in arranging social events by the Dunfermline Ladies' Committee under the convenership of Mrs. Andrew Buchanan, 33 Townhill Road, Dunfermline.

The following is a statistical record for the year:—

Number of persons on the Blind Register at 1/1/55:—	
Male 20	Female 31
Number examined by Ophthalmic Surgeon:—	
Male 2	Female 9
Number found to be Blind within the meaning of the Act:—	
Male —	Female 6
Number added to the Register:—	
Male 2	Female 6

Number taken off the Register:—

Male —

Female 4 (Deceased).

Number on the Register at end of year:—

Male 22

Female 33

(b) Deaf and Dumb Persons.

An increase in the *per capita* grant from £2 to £2, 10s. per annum was made this year to the Fife Mission to the Deaf and Dumb in respect of the welfare services provided by the Mission. Extracts from the Mission's Annual Report give an indication of the scope of the services rendered. The same difficulty has been experienced in the question of the provision of premises for social meetings and special religious services, but as the Fife Society for the Blind and the Fife Mission are agreed on sharing any premises which may be acquired, there is a prospect of this difficulty being overcome next year. The following are extracts from a very full report on the work of the Mission, submitted by Mr. J. L. Rodger, Superintendent and Missioner:—

“General.—The services provided try to bridge two worlds, the normal hearing world and the world of silence. It is recognised that total deafness means total and complete *isolation* and *isolation begets loneliness*. ‘The bridge,’ therefore, which this Mission represents is the only way out of their loneliness.

“Religious Services.—These have again been well attended during the year and as Churches for the Deaf are few and far between, this is a most essential service. They cannot understand what goes on in a normal Church, because it is impossible to lip-read a service or sermon. The services we provide are conducted in their own language of finger spelling, gestures, and speech. These enable them to follow what is taking place and to receive Spiritual comfort.

“Interpretation.—Most of the people whom this Mission serves use the manual alphabet and gestures, assisted by lip-reading, as their normal method of communication. Generally, to the Deaf, the use of the manual alphabet, *i.e.*, speaking with the fingers, is easier than lip-reading. It does not give rise to the misunderstanding that lip-reading can and does.

“Because of this it has been necessary for me to act as interpreter in hospitals, surgeries, and solicitors' offices, and in many other places and circumstances. All have greatly appreciated the services we give in helping the Deaf.

“Employment.—The Deaf take part in industry exceedingly well and become highly skilled craftsmen. Those on our register are all in full employment, which is gratifying.

“Dunfermline Branch.—A most encouraging progress can be reported during the past year in connection with this Branch. Local membership has increased and greater interest is apparent.

“The Church Services as well as Communion Services continue to be well attended.

“A Christmas Re-union Social was held in the Central Baths, Dunfermline, in December, when a very large number of members turned up. After tea, a conjuring exhibition followed by games and dances, contributed greatly to their enjoyment.

“A few members of both sexes participated in a Bowling Competition promoted by the Mission during the summer months.

“Two Old Age Pensioners have now left the district for Homes for the Deaf, one to Edinburgh and other to Glasgow.

“Visits paid by myself to Dunfermline members was approximately 43. This includes hospital visitations. Ordinary visits paid by Mr. Reid, Resident Missioner, Dunfermline, was approximately 15.

“There are so many people who have assisted our Mission in various ways that it is impossible to thank them individually. May I make mention, however, of the Local Authorities of Kirkcaldy and Dunfermline for their interest, help, and co-operation, and also their financial assistance. I wish to express my sincere appreciation of the members of my Management Committee for their interest and guidance to me for their unfailing and devoted support in all the activities I have striven to do.

“The needs of the Deaf will ever continue to be great; and with your continued support it is my confident belief that more and more can be done to help them overcome their ‘loneliness’.”

(c) Other Handicapped Persons.

An approved scheme is not yet in operation but several handicapped persons have been assisted with problems either directly by the Social Services Department or through the good offices of the local branch of the British Red Cross Society. Experiments continued in the teaching of pastime occupations to handicapped persons in Luscar House.

PROVISION OF ACCOMMODATION

under Section 21 of the National Assistance Act.

Residential.

Davaar, Garthdee, Garvock House, and Luscar House have been in full operation over the year, and while the first three mentioned

Homes have been able to supply the demand in so far as the less infirm type of old person is concerned, an adjustment in the lay-out of Luscar House had to be made to increase the number of beds available, and at the close of the year a waiting-list was building up. In this connection a full report was submitted to the Council as to future requirements. This report stressed the point, as shown by experience, that the greatest need in the future lies in the provision of beds for "very infirm elderly people." The reasoning behind this assumption is very straight-forward. Since 1948, domiciliary services for old people have been gradually built up, as a result of which elderly people who are still fairly able can carry on living in their own homes quite comfortably much longer than would otherwise have been possible. The domiciliary services, coupled with statutory and voluntary welfare visiting, can do so much to postpone the feeling of insecurity which prompts many old people to seek the sheltered atmosphere of Old People's Homes, and, broadly speaking, the ultimate result of this is that the majority of applications for admission will come from "very infirm elderly" persons. This, at least, seems to be the trend in this area. After considering at length the views and proposals contained in the report, the Town Council agreed, in principle, to the erection, at Luscar House, of an annexe which would provide a further twenty ground floor beds.

There have been the usual celebrations on festive occasions in all the Homes. Those of the residents who were able to go were taken to suitable shows in the Carnegie Hall, and concerts and film shows were given in the Homes by interested organisations. Television is very popular in all of the Homes.

The following statistics give the position in each of the Homes at the beginning and end of the year:—

	At 1/1/55.	Admissions.	Discharges.	At 31/12/55.	Vacancies at 31/12/55.
Davaar	15	2	3	14	1
Garthdee	18	4	4	18	—
Garvock House.. ..	20	12	15	17	3
Luscar	28	36	26	38	—

I would like to acknowledge the services given by the chaplains: Rev. R. S. Bishop (Davaar); Rev. D. Brown (Garvock House); Rev. W. MacGill Thomson (Garthdee); and Rev. J. C. Blackie (Luscar). I would also like to acknowledge the services of Dr. Beveridge, Medical Officer for Luscar House.

Temporary Accommodation.

Temporary accommodation had to be provided at Luscar House on six occasions during the year, but there was no need for the provision of accommodation on any major scale.

GENERAL WELFARE.

In all, 1,683 visits were paid during the year by the staff of the Social Services Department. The majority of these visits were in connection with the welfare of old people as the following table indicates:—

General Welfare (old persons)	379	visits.
Do. Do. (problem families)	262	„
Admission to Homes	189	„
Meals on Wheels	47	„
Domestic Help	12	„
Chiropody Service	25	„
Hospitals	126	„
Corporation Homes	424	„
Mental Health	136	„
Old People's Welfare Committee functions	25	„

Requests to visit were received from doctors, ministers, Government and Town Council Departments, and Voluntary Organisations. The co-operation of all concerned in any way with the welfare of old people is essential to try and ensure that no old person suffers needless discomfort or unhappiness.

The number of elderly persons being visited by Health Visitors rose from 350 to over 600 by the end of the year, and in many cases the Health Visitors were able to draw the attention of the Social Services Department to the need for applying domiciliary service. In the past years there has been a marked falling off in the discovery of elderly persons in extreme need and I attribute this to the co-operation received from medical practitioners, ministers, the Domestic Help Supervisor, and voluntary workers, coupled with the new Health Visiting Service. Visits are especially necessary after discharge from hospital, and the staffs of local hospitals, in most instances, contact the Social Services Department prior to discharging any person where there is doubt about the home conditions being suitable. On occasion it has been found advisable to admit the old persons to a Residential Home for a short period before allowing them to go home to live alone. As will be seen from the above table, one hundred and twenty-six visits were paid to local hospitals to deal with these and other problems.

In reviewing cases visited and dealt with during the year, I would say that the main conditions which call for attention fall broadly under the following heads:—The domestic problem of cooking, shopping, and cleaning; malnutrition; neglected health conditions; housing; loneliness; and, of course, financial problems. The Town Council's Domestic Help Service is the answer to the first of these problems, and this service is being increasingly made use of.

The Meals on Wheels Service is also available to any old person living alone, and financial arrangements are such that no old person need go without both of these services because of cost. Certain old people tend to neglect their own health and sometimes the hygiene of the home, and are difficult of temperament. This can only be overcome by the efforts of visitors, either in the voluntary or official field, who can persuade them to make use of the medical and other services available. The question of special houses for old people is being dealt with, although progress in this direction must of necessity be slow. Loneliness is something which can only be overcome by persons who are willing to devote time to visiting or to the organising of outings and social functions. Assistance with financial difficulties does not fall within the Local Authorities' province.

I would like to acknowledge the services of the Women's Voluntary Services in connection with the Meals on Wheels Service. Over 100 meals per week were delivered during the year. The cost to the Town Council rose to 2s. per meal, but the charge to the old person was kept at 1s.

Increasing use was made of the chiropody service supplied in Dunfermline by the Dunfermline District Nursing Association, and in Rosyth by the Rosyth Branch of the Dunfermline and Rosyth Old People's Welfare Committee. This is a very much appreciated service.

Acknowledgment is also due to the Dunfermline District Nursing Association for the provision of bed-clothing, commodes, wheel-chairs, etc., made available whenever asked for by this Department, and also for payments made to "sitters-in."

The Local Branch of the British Red Cross Society has also responded generously to calls for practical assistance to house-bound old persons and assistance in the form of clothing and medical requisites.

On the social side, many local voluntary organisations are very active in providing socials and outings.

Relationships with the Dunfermline and Rosyth Old People's Welfare Committee have been excellent, and the staff of the Social Services Department has always been pleased to assist in any schemes or functions run by the Committee.

Compulsory Removals.

There was no need to take any action under the compulsory removal provisions of the National Assistance Act.

Care of Property.

Action was taken on six occasions under Section 48 of the National Assistance Act with regard to looking after the property of persons admitted to Hospitals or Homes.

Burials.

Under Section 50 of the National Assistance Act two burials were carried out of persons who were found dead where there was no relative or friend able or willing to make the necessary arrangements.

Miscellaneous.

Arrangements for the allocation of the annual grants from the Anonymous Donors' Christmas Season Coal Fund and Goodall Trust, the Gardiners' Charitable Trust, and the Cunningham Bequest, were carried out. In all, 96 persons received grants from those funds.

Free School Meals.

Seventy-two new applications were investigated, involving 145 children. Of these applications 64 were granted and eight were refused.

At the beginning of 1955, 231 children were in receipt of free meals, and at 31st December 1955 there were 269 children receiving free school meals.

Receiving meals, 31st December 1954 ..	108	families	involving	231	children.
Applications investigated during 1955 ..	72	"	"	145	"
Additions to previous applications	0	"	"	13	"
	<hr/>			<hr/>	
	180	"	"	389	"
Applications refused	8	"	"	16	"
	<hr/>			<hr/>	
	172	"	"	373	"
Applications granted at a reduced charge,	0	"	"	0	"
	<hr/>			<hr/>	
	172	"	"	373	"
Ceased	48	"	"	104	"
	<hr/>			<hr/>	
Receiving Free Meals on 31st December					
1955	124	"	"	269	"
	<hr/>			<hr/>	

Acknowledgments.

I would like to gratefully acknowledge the support given by members of the Town Council, the co-operation of my colleagues, and the services carried out by all members of the Social Services Department staff, including staffs in charge of Corporation Homes, and would also like to acknowledge the help given by many voluntary workers.